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LEAVES FOR THE PLAINS: Carrying a basket and a bag of Christmas gifts, President Carter departs Washington from the reflecting pool Tuesday en route to Plains, Ga. for the Christmas holidays.

For national security adviser

Reagan picks former aide

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24 (R) — President-elect Ronald Reagan has named Richard Allen, his foreign policy aide during the election campaign, as his national security adviser, a post once held by Henry Kissinger.

But Reagan has made clear that the position will be downgraded to avoid the kind of past rivalry between the national security adviser and the State Department. Allen withdrew briefly as Reagan's foreign policy adviser during the campaign after the *Wall Street Journal* claimed that he had misused his influence for personal gain while serving in the Nixon White House.

After the campaign, Reagan declared he had full confidence in Allen and restored him to his team. Allen, who was on Kissinger's security council staff in 1969, told reporters the incoming administration planned to use the former secretary of state in a wide range of undertakings, including unspecified trips



Richard Allen

abroad. Tuesday, Kissinger's office announced that he would leave on a two week private visit to Europe and the Middle East Saturday.

The president-elect also announced the nomination of John Block, an Illinois pig farmer and state agriculture director, for the cabinet post of agriculture secretary.

Other White House appointments announced were Martin Anderson, a former Stanford University professor, as assistant for domestic policy developments, and Reagan's former press secretary Franklin Nofziger, as assistant to the president for political affairs.

At a press conference Allen, a professional consultant on international affairs who shares the president-elect's tough line on the Soviet Union, promised not to become a White House celebrity. "Sometime between Christmas and New Year ... I'm pretty much guaranteeing to you that I'll sort of submerge, you are seeing a disappearing act right now," he said.

Edwin Meese, who will be counselor to the president with cabinet rank in the new administration, said the security adviser would be subordinate to him and no longer would have a press secretary or Congressional liaison staff. Reagan has now given up, taking to meet his Christmas deadline for the announcement of his 17-member cabinet. He is expected to nominate the last two members, a secretary of education and a special trade representative on Friday.

Hino to build large trucks in Jeddah

TOKYO, Dec. 24 (R) — Large Japanese trucks are to be built in Saudi Arabia for the expanding Middle East market in a joint venture announced by Hino Motors.

Hino, which is affiliated with the Toyota car firm, said it had agreed to produce the trucks, with capacity of four to 10 tons, with Abdul Latif Muhammad Salah Jannoon and Brothers in Jeddah, probably by early next year.

The Saudi Arabian partners in the \$2.3-million venture will put up two-thirds of the capital and the remaining third will be provided equally by Hino and Toyo Menka Kaisha, a Japanese trading firm.

Hino Motors has shipped about 2,000 trucks to Saudi Arabia this year. Hino said the joint firm would assemble the trucks from major components supplied from Japan, but the scale of production was yet to be fixed.

New bookstore, office supplies centre opens in Riyadh

RIYADH: An ultramodern retail outlet for books on all subjects and office supplies and systems was inaugurated on Jarir Street.

The Jarir Bookstore is spread on one thousand square metres on two floors and is unique as it caters not only to the casual fiction reader but also to the serious student of philosophy, medicine and engineering.

The management of Jarir Bookstore has applied the latest concepts of merchandising and have left very little to the visitor in selecting his or her choice of books. A direction map guides the visitor to the right section where amiable and polite salesmen make you feel at home.

The Jarir Bookstore has an entire section devoted to office equipment and supplies; typewriters, copying machines, stationery supplies, file cabinets and practically anything one could ask for. The store can supply an entire office system, furniture included, and in this respect stands out as the only bookstore of its kind in the Kingdom.

Uneasy ceasefire in Zahle

BEIRUT, Dec. 24 (R) — An uneasy calm prevailed in the east Lebanese town of Zahle Wednesday after several days of heavy fighting between Syrian troops and Christian militia forces.

State-run Beirut radio said sporadic shooting broke a truce between the two sides during the night, but there had been no resumption of artillery shelling which killed at least 12 persons earlier this week.

Security sources said neither side had withdrawn from the town, 50 kilometers east of Beirut. Heavy fighting started last Sunday after civic leaders in Zahle refused to surrender gunmen who killed five Syrian soldiers in an ambush the previous day.

About 30,000 Syrian troops have been in Lebanon as an Arab Deterrent Force (ADF) since they intervened to end the 1975-76 civil war.

The rightwing militias welcomed them at first as allies in their struggle against Palestinian commandos and Lebanese nationalists, but they now regard the Syrians with hostility as an army of occupation.

In a policy document issued Tuesday the rightist parties repeated their demand for the withdrawal of Syrian forces from Lebanon, and said that Palestinian refugees should not be allowed to settle here.

Security sources said the latest clashes in Zahle were the worst since the two sides waged a week-long battle in a Christian district of Beirut two years ago. The town has a population of about 150,000 and is a stronghold of the Greek Catholic (Melkite) community in Lebanon's eastern Bekka valley where more than half of the Syrian Deterrent Force is deployed.

At least three ceasefires have been broken in Zahle in the past two days, and security sources said there was no guarantee that the latest truce would do any better.



EARTHQUAKE: People ding through rubble in Iran's city of Qom after earthquake caused heavy damage around the area. This was the first of the two earthquakes in the past week. The quake also struck the Iranian capital of Tehran.

Yamani receives degree

Saudi Arabia is voice of moderation -- Marcos

By Joe Pavia
Arab News Correspondent
MANILA, Dec. 24 — Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Tuesday night praised Saudi Arabia, calling it the voice of reason and moderation in a world confused and torn by conflict. Speaking at the dinner the president and the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, tendered at Malacanang Palace in honor of oil Minister Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani, Marcos likened Saudi Arabia to a "balance wheel" in a confused and unpredictable world because of the "light of moderation, maturity and rationality" that comes from that Kingdom.

At the same time, Marcos said Saudi Arabia and the world are fortunate in having a man like Yamani who, as minister of oil and mineral resources, has "exercised power with grace." Marcos said Yamani speaks with

"humility and restraint" and is listened to with respect by the whole world.

In response, Yamani expressed the hope that Saudi Arabia can continue to serve the international community and "make life easier in this very problematic world" and that his country "will strengthen our relationship more and more with the Philippines."

A stronger bond between the two countries is necessary, he said, "because we both have the same goal in life and we both feel that we are on the same boat."

Yamani arrived Monday evening for a private visit at the invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Marcos. Tuesday morning, Marcos conferred on him the highest Philippine government decoration on foreign dignitaries — the ancient order of Sikatuna, rank of Datu in recognition of his invaluable services as one of the world's most distinguished statesmen. In the afternoon, Yamani received an honorary doctor of laws degree from the university of the Philippines.

In his dinner speech, Marcos said Yamani as one of the best known Saudi Arabian leaders is respected not only because of his power and prestige but because of the "wisdom and forbearance" with which he has made decisions and recommendations in the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and in other international bodies.

If there is a single man who is inclined towards saving our world for what it is, we have him as guest of honor" the president said.

Yamani thanked the president and the First Lady for their hospitality, saying that in all countries he has visited, he has never experienced Filipino hospitality which he cal-

Hussein to join summit

AMMAN, Dec. 24 (Agencies) — King Hussein is to lead the Jordanian delegation at next month's Islamic summit conference in Mecca, officials announced Wednesday. The Jordanian monarch received the official invitation Tuesday to attend the summit which will focus on various Islamic issues and the current situation in the Middle East.

Official sources in Jeddah said Wednesday that the Organization of Islamic Conference has sent the invitations to kings and heads of state for the 3rd Islamic conference due to open in Mecca Jan. 24.

The officials added that the invitations were sent to the 40 ambassadors of the respective nations except Afghanistan and Egypt whose membership in the organization had been suspended.

Meanwhile the agenda of the foreign ministers conference which will precede the summit on Jan. 17 was being prepared according to the officials.

The ministers will hold a three-day meeting to adopt the summit's agenda, the officials added. They said that "important Islamic issues, led by the Jerusalem question, the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, were high on the agenda."

The Islamic summit will also discuss "important political, economic and cultural documents" for a future unified Islamic strategy, the officials added.

According to the officials Saudi Arabia was expected to play a major role in cementing relations among the OIC members "notably the deepening of Islamic solidarity."

The officials pointed out to the efforts of Algeria and the Organization in helping remove inter-Arab tension and settle the Iraq Iran war.

They said that a ministerial committee from Saudi Arabia, Algeria and the Arab League Secretary General Cheddi Klibi, has been exerting efforts to consolidate Arab and Islamic cooperation.

They said that committee members have visited several Arab countries as a first step for a collective stand over major issues on the agenda.

\$5m fire hits air base

STUTTGART, West Germany, Dec. 24 (AFP) — Fire caused damage estimated at \$5 million at the U.S. air force base of Stuttgart-Echterdingen early Wednesday. A military spokesman said the blaze, whose origin had not yet been determined, destroyed a hangar and a helicopter.

Gold trading in 1980

Boom for Swiss banks; peaks missed by Russia

ZURICH, Dec. 24 (R) — The boom in gold trading this year in Zurich, which claims to be the world's most important physical bullion market, appears to have brought windfall profits for the Swiss banks that specialize in the metal.

The year began on a hectic business when the price of gold soared above \$870 an ounce in January, and the pace rarely slackened for the three biggest Swiss banks involved in the market.

Harassed gold dealers were often reduced to stammering, nervous exhaustion as investors jammed phone lines to join the gold rush. Back offices were swamped with paperwork they could scarcely control any more, and competition from rival centers such as London, Luxembourg and Frankfurt grew fierce.

Most of the Swiss banks' latest quarterly reports speak of excellent earnings from gold in 1980, and bullion sources say that in most cases the profits have been easily a record. Actual earnings figures are not published.

Zurich's big chance in gold trading came in 1968 when the London market had to close for a few weeks because of an international currency crisis. The big three Swiss banks jumped into the breach and took over the marketing of newly mined gold from the world's two largest suppliers, South Africa and the Soviet Union.

Thanks to its status as an outlet for South African and Soviet gold, the Zurich market could attract wealthy potential buyers, including central banks of oil-exporting and other countries seeking to diversify their assets out of the dollar.

It all has not been plain sailing. At the beginning of 1980 the Swiss government imposed a 5.6 per cent tax on the purchase of any gold actually delivered in Switzerland. Big buyers can get around the tax by purchasing gold held in a duty-free warehouse. This is considered as merely in transit in Switzerland and therefore escapes tax.

But the Zurich bullion bankers believe they have lost some central bank custom because of the levy, and Union Bank of Switzerland general manager Robert Studer says it has almost killed the Swiss market for gold coins.

Then the Swiss customs office in September began publishing monthly statistics showing how much gold moved in and out of Switzerland and naming the foreign countries involved.

The Zurich banks are furious at what they consider a harmful indiscretion and are trying to have publication of the statistics suppressed or curbed in scope. The Zurich bankers fear some countries named in the customs statistics will take their business elsewhere to escape the publicity.

Hans Surber, bullion manager of Bank Leu, told Reuters he believes the Soviet Union has already moved some of its gold sales from Zurich for this reason, possibly to New York.

Zurich bankers predict the Soviets will

have sold only 50 to 60 tons of gold this year, compared with estimates of 230 tons in 1979 and 410 tons in 1978.

Some believe the Russians have been earning enough foreign exchange from higher prices for exported oil and from manufactured goods. Or else they sold more than their annual production in the years up to 1978 and are now cutting back to restock their own reserves.

Another point is that the Russians are having difficulty in extracting the ore from mines situated in difficult terrain. Other banks take the view that Moscow simply misjudged the market. They think the Russians sold too much gold early in 1979 at relatively low prices, and then waited too long in 1980 and missed the peaks of \$870 an ounce in January and \$720 in September.

Most believe Soviet gold will eventually reappear in somewhat larger quantities, but not until the price has strengthened from its present fragile level around \$590.

South African sales in 1980 are expected to be about 50 tons lower than the 703 tons sold last year due to a deliberate policy of holding some supplies back from the market. The big rise in the price over the past year has dramatically improved South Africa's balance of payments, enabling it to sell less metal, in particular when prices have been weak, the Zurich bankers said.

Most forecast this practice will continue into 1981, though a few believe the fall in price has reduced South Africa's room for maneuver.

In the mid-1970s when South Africa had big balance-of-payments problems and difficulties in raising foreign credit because of apartheid, Swiss banks extended large loans in exchange for gold deposited in Switzerland as collateral. Now the Swiss government has placed a ceiling on loans to South Africa, and the bankers say some south African sales have moved to London and West Germany as a result.

Zurich's share of South African sales is now down to around 50 to 60 per cent from levels over three-quarters for much of the 1970s, the bankers say. The range of clients who trade on the Zurich gold market has expanded considerably over the past year. Whereas before buyers consisted mainly of long-term investors, now a new breed has appeared who play the gold market like a stock market, moving quickly in and out with an eye to quick profits, the bankers say.

Short-term price trends thus tend at present to be set on these speculative and volatile U.S. markets. But the Zurich bankers claim their own ability to attract powerful buyers prevented the price from falling below \$470 in the spring and beneath \$540 earlier this month.

The gold price is currently depressed by high interest rates in America, which make the cost of financing speculative gold holdings high and currency deposits more attractive.

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Minister returns from Damascus

Housing conference ends

RIYADH, Dec. 24 (SPA) — State Minister and member of the cabinet Sheikh Muhammad Ibrahim Al-Masoud returned to Riyadh Tuesday night after attending the fifth conference of the Arab Housing and Reconstruction ministers held in Damascus. Sheikh Masoud was seen off at the airport by Syrian Housing Minister Nors Al-Dagar and the Kingdom's ambassador there, Abdul Mohsen Al-Zaid.

Among the measures resolved by the conference was the establishment of a documentation and maintenance center for Jerusalem. The Committee for preserving the Cultural Features of Jerusalem was authorized to pursue the establishment of the center.

The conference recommended collective Arab support of any Arab country suffering

natural disasters, and called on Arab countries for joint work to reconstruct the town of Asnam in Algeria, completely destroyed by a tremor several months ago. The conference also recommended the Housing and Reconstruction Department of the Arab League to prepare a feasibility study for joint Arab contracting companies.

Arab businessmen and companies involved in the contracting business were called upon to form joint companies to carry out housing and other facilities projects to compete with foreign companies in the Arab market. The conference also decided to complete the feasibility study for an Arab housing bank and clarify its basic rules, activities and fields of investment.

The conference decided to organize a housing division within the General Secretariat of

the Arab League, similar to the Arab health ministers', social affairs ministers' and sports ministers' organizations. Tunisia, Algeria, Syria, Iraq and Kuwait were elected as the members of the Executive Bureau. The conference accepted Algeria's invitation to host the sixth conference next year.

In another development, the Executive Committee of the Islamic Cities Organization met in Islamabad Jan. 31 to discuss promoting cooperation between Islamic capitals in various fields. The conference will last three days. The mayor of Islamabad, Ali Jazdy, stressed the need for exchanging information on the planning of Islamic cities.

The mayor praised the Kingdom's role in the establishment of the Islamic Cities Organization.



Dr. Solaiman Solaim

Solaim chairs industry meeting

DAMMAM, Dec. 24 (SPA) — Commerce Minister Dr. Solaim Solaim chaired a meeting of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Eastern Region for a wide ranging discussion of the region's trade and industrial situation. They also discussed the services and performance of the port, the availability of foodstuffs, the state of money supply and the work of Saudi Arabian contractors.

Dr. Solaim said that the government was carrying out the instructions of King Khalid and Crown Prince Fahd by restricting certain types of contracts to Saudi Arabian companies only. They include roads, bridges and buildings. He said government was aiming at encouraging the local businessmen by offering incentives and facilities to the private sector to invest in agricultural development and industry and make use of the economies of large scale technologies and modern machinery.

The government was also planning to convert some of the existing corporations which it owns into public ones by inviting private sector subscription and there are proposals to set up trading and agricultural companies in the private sector. It is government policy to set up large corporations, finance and operate them until they become viable and profitable. They are then offered for public subscription by selling a substantial share of its equity.

North Yemen statesman praises Kingdom's aid

JEDDAH, Dec. 24 — A leading North Yemen statesman and tribal sheikh said his country's relations with Saudi Arabia are excellent and capable of withstanding the attempts that are being made to undermine them, *Al Medina* reported Wednesday.

Sheikh Abdullah ibn Hussein Al Ahmar, member of the consultative assembly and chief of the Hashed tribal confederation, said the recent meeting of the Council of Ministers here to discuss Saudi Arabian-Yemeni relations indicated the importance attached to them by the Saudi Arabian government.

The council was briefed on Monday by Defense Minister Prince Sultan on the Kingdom's relations with North Yemen. Crown Prince Fahd gave the cabinet instructions to extend all support to the Saudi Arabian development programs in the country and to deepen the brotherly relations with it. He described the bilateral relations as being based on firm foundation of mutual respect, and that the Kingdom considers it a duty to carry out development plans in North Yemen.

Sheikh Abdullah, who has been visiting the Kingdom, said that the aid programs in Yemen which are funded and executed by the Saudi Arabian office in Sanaa are beginning to bear fruit and have shown "tangible results in various forms." There is nothing wrong with such support, he said. He described the bilateral relations as excellent as they existed between brothers. "We consider the Kingdom the elder brother and the strongest ally and best source of development aid," he said.

He accused those who try to undermine these relations through adverse propaganda and falsehoods of being envious and malicious quarters. He said he could not name them but he was sure that they would fail in the endeavors.

Saudi Arabia extends development aid to North Yemen and provides annual budgetary support to cover the deficit on a regular basis. Besides, there are nearly one million Yemenis here who remit their savings and earnings to their families back home which amount to over a \$1 billion a year. This helps the country's balance of payments too.

For SR80m

Water treatment pact signed

RIYADH, Dec. 24 (SPA) — Agriculture and Water Minister Dr. Abdul Rahman Al-Sheikh approved the awarding of an SR80 million contract to two Saudi Arabian companies. The contract calls for supply and installing of sewage water dispensing pipes from the sewage treatment plant in Riyadh to farms in Raqah and Darayya.

The main pipeline will be 55 kilometers long with a diameter of 60 to 100 centimeters. The pipeline will pump about 80,000 cubic meters of water daily. The main pipelines branches into two — one pouring the water into the Raqah farms and the other to Darayya farms. The two lines end at Wadi Hanifah dam in Raqah and Illah dam in Darayya.

The project has been designed to accommodate four pumping units of 1,000 cubic meters of water daily capacity. The project is expected to be completed in 24 months.

The minister recently has signed another contract to pump the surplus water of Riyadh sewage treatment plant to an area near Dirab with the intention of utilizing the surplus water for agricultural purposes.

In a separate development, the Western Province Water and Sewage Department's



Dr. Abdul Rahman Al-Sheikh

Board met in Jeddah Tuesday under Mecca Governor Prince Majed. The meeting discussed the department's future plans.

Yahya Koshak, director general of the department, said the board also discussed awarding contracts for several projects. They include a water project for Rawda, Shisha and Aziziyah districts in Mecca; a project for building three purification plants for saline water coming from several wells to Mecca. The project will produce about 15,000 cubic meters of water daily. Koshak said.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Solaiman Al-Hamdan, deputy minister of municipal and rural affairs; Abdul Kader Koshak, Mecca mayor; Assad Jamjoum, Western Province agriculture and water director general; Dr. Abbas Marzouqi, Western Region health director general; and representatives of the Ministry of Finance and National Economy and the Municipalities of Jeddah and Taif.

Majed to open building show

JEDDAH, Dec. 24 — Mecca Governor Prince Majed will open the Middle East Construction Exhibition to be held at the Jeddah Expo Center for the second time from Jan. 15 to 21 next year.

Leading companies here and abroad will take part in it. They will come from the U.K., U.S.A., West Germany, France, Belgium, Finland, Switzerland, Sweden, India, Spain, Italy, Netherlands, Austria, Australia, Pakistan, Philippines and the U.A.E. Local companies have reserved 2,000 square meters of space so far.

The range of construction-related products and service to be displayed is immense. It includes heavy and light plant and machinery, building materials, components and tools, scaffolding, paints and chemicals, air conditioning, sanitary and plumbing equipment, security and alarm systems, and consultancy and management services. Many of the larger exhibits, such as prefabricated buildings, will be arranged on external sites and one local company has taken over 600 meters of space in order to demonstrate its enormous earth-moving equipment.

The last exhibition, held here in January this year, attracted over 500 companies and 15,000 visitors.

Al-Anqari departs

RIYADH, Dec. 24 (SPA) — Labor and Social Affairs Minister Sheikh Ibrahim Al-Anqari left Riyadh Wednesday for Tunisia leading the Kingdom's delegation to the Arab Labor and Social Affairs Minister Council conference. The conference opens in Tunis Thursday.

The Saudi Arabian delegation comprises Prince Fahd ibn Sultan, deputy minister of labor and social affairs for social care; Rashad Hussain Mukhlis, assistant deputy minister for social affairs; Abdul Mohsen Al-Tamimi, director general of the Eastern Province Social Affairs Bureau.



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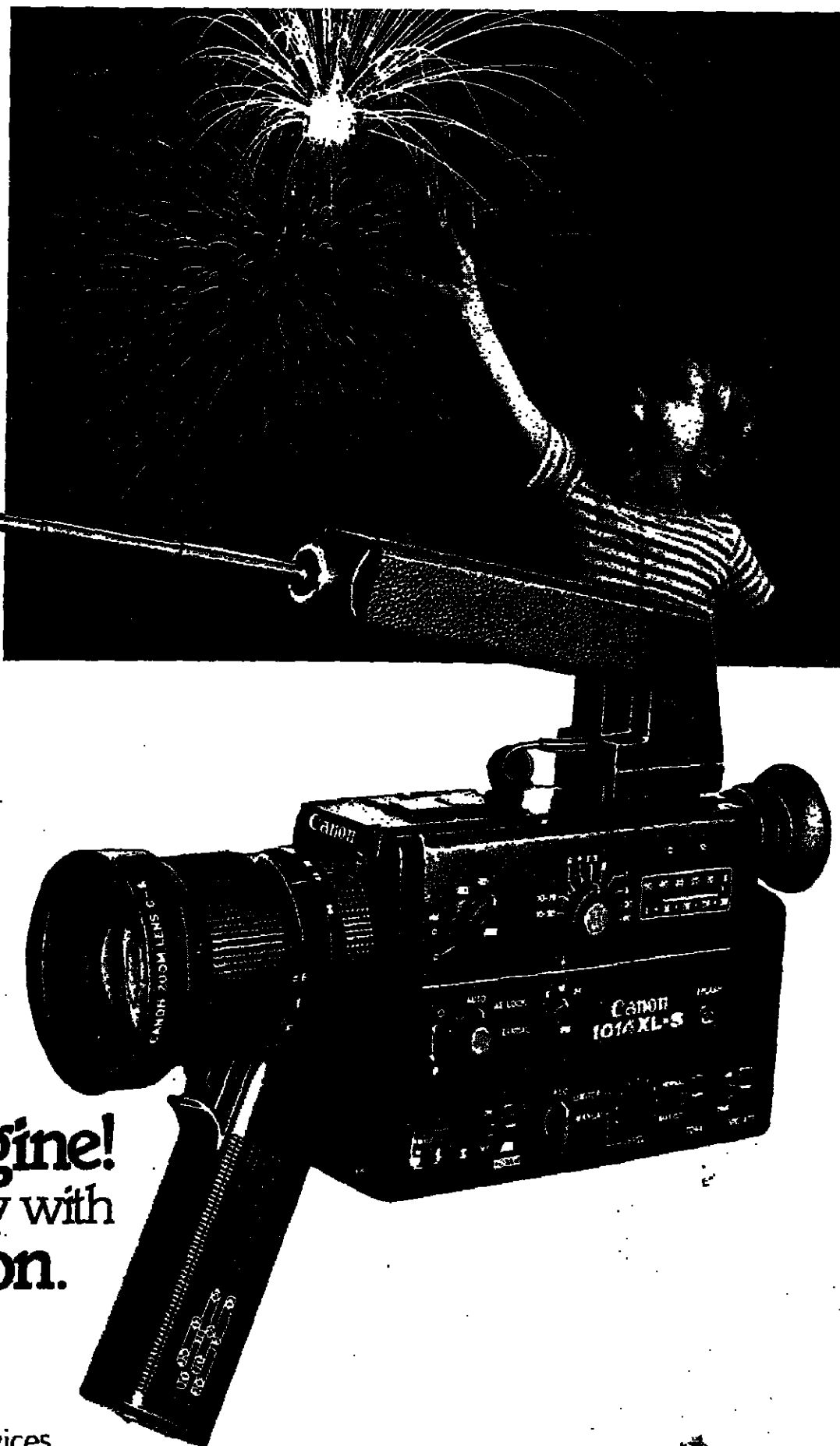
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Differences 'settled' at Chad parley

LAGOS, Dec. 24 (Agencies) — An inter-African conference on the future of war-ravaged Chad broke up here at 4 a.m. Wednesday, after more than 16 hours, with divergences among the eleven African heads of state ending, a reliable source said.

The leaders, who included Chadian President Goukouni Quédde, the victor in the recent Chadian civil war, did not adopt a final communiqué, the source added. They were later starting to leave for home.

The meeting, behind closed doors, opened Tuesday morning with the Chadian seat empty. Goukouni, who had earlier announced his government would not be represented, joined the talks in the afternoon. Rebel Chadian Defense Minister Hissene Habre, who arrived uninvited, was turned away from the talks.

Libya, which reportedly helped Goukouni defeat Habre, was represented at the conference by Foreign Minister Abdulsalam Triki, who arrived here Tuesday morning.

In Paris, meanwhile, a senior Libyan official said Tuesday that his country did not have troops in the former French African colony. "There are no Libyan troops in Chad... There is technical cooperation between Chad and Libya which supplies medicines, food and blankets", Ahmad Shabari, chief of Libya's embassies or peoples bureaus, told a press conference.

He was speaking after a meeting Monday with French Foreign Minister Jean Francois-Poncet, who told him France felt Libya was not abiding by agreements for demilitarization of the Chad capital.

France maintains that about 5,000 Libyan troops are in Chad after helping Goukouni defeat Habre.

Four Palestinians sentenced to death

ANKARA, Dec. 24 (R) — Four Palestinian commandos who stormed the Egyptian Embassy here in July 1979, killing two Turkish security guards, were sentenced to death by a Turkish civilian court Tuesday.

The Ankara court sentenced the commandos to death for the killing of the guards and also for attempting to disrupt Turkey's relations with another country (Egypt).

The Palestinians were given the same sentence by a military court in 1979 but a military appeals court earlier this year ruled that their crimes were not covered by martial law and they should be retried by civilian judges.

They are Mervan Sebanu, 25, Muhammad Dip Ebuzerad, 20, Rkleiman Abdullah, 24, all from Syria, and Lebanese citizen Mustafa Beysheshly, 20.

Pope raps Israeli law on Jerusalem

CAIRO, Dec. 24 (R) — Pope John Paul said Christians and Muslims had a duty to work together "to achieve freedom for Jerusalem and restore the holy city to all religious groups", according to an interview published in Egypt Tuesday.

The semi-official newspaper *Al-Ahram* quoted the Pope as saying Jerusalem was God's city and could not be the capital of a single state. "No one nation can claim exclusive ownership," he added.

He was answering a question on the Vatican's view of the Israeli law declaring



ROUNDING UP ARABS: Israeli soldiers take an Arab youth into custody after a sniper wounded an Israeli policeman outside the walls of Jerusalem's Old City. Despite the satisfactory condition of the wounded soldier, Israeli police detained scores of Arabs.

U.S. using Islam to subvert Soviet areas, KGB chief says

MOSCOW, Dec. 24 (R) — The KGB security police chief in the Soviet Republic of Azerbaijan bordering Iran has said the United States was trying to use Islam to subvert Soviet areas where Muslims live. The charge was made in a newspaper article by Maj. Gen. Z. Yusuf-Zade, chairman of the committee for state security in the republic.

Writing in the Communist Party newspaper *Bakinsky Rabochy*, he said his organization was struggling against adversaries including underground religious sects.

Azerbaijan is the only area of the Soviet Union where the bulk of the Muslim population is Shiite. But officials in the republic normally tell foreigners they have no fears about Iran's revolution spilling across the border into their territory.

Soviet Azerbaijan shares a common language with Iranian Azerbaijan, though a different alphabet is used and cross-border contacts are very limited.

Yusuf-Zade's article was a rare expression of official concern about the political influence of Islam, though he was careful to avoid any mention of Iran and attacked only the West.

The article accused imperialist states of sending agents into the Soviet Union to contact hostile elements and incite them to anti-social acts. "Our adversary is trying to focus

on those Soviet citizens whom they can use not only to pick up interesting information, but also to push them onto the path of active anti-Soviet activity and dangerous extremist actions," he said.

He declared that in connection with the situation in Iran and Afghanistan the U.S. was trying to use the Islamic religion as a means of exerting political influence inside the Soviet Union, especially in areas with Muslim populations.

Morale high in Iran as Gulf war drags on

By Ian Mather

TEHRAN, Dec. 24 (OFNS) — Despite hardships imposed by the Gulf war, Iran seems gripped by a spirit of gritty determination enhanced by the realization that Iraq's early thrusts have been held and encouraged by the belief that the tide may be turning. In contrast to what I found in Iraq recently, there is a strong motivation among ordinary people here to resist and fight. This spirit was epitomized by a group of students on my flight from Rome to Tehran, who were returning voluntarily to join the armed forces.

"We want to go to the front immediately to fight the Iraqis and the Americans who are behind them," one said. "We will go to the front after one month's training. If we ourselves become martyrs it will be a privilege for us."

The same spirit shows among the hotel staff. Many had appeared listless and indifferent when I was last here. The war has changed that. When the Iranian government appealed for money to help win the war, the hotel staff collected \$17,000 from their own wages and handed it over.

The buoyant mood is based also on the realization that Iran is managing to live with the war. There has been no military collapse.

The infrequent air-raid warnings over Tehran disrupt normal city life only temporarily. On Dec. 8 the sirens sounded over television and radio (not on the streets) and minutes later the night sky filled with the shell bursts of anti-aircraft fire as an Iraqi jet screamed overhead. It was not clear whether any bombs had been dropped. Minutes later the all-clear sounded, cars which had stopped in the blacked-out streets started up again and life returned to normal.

But the war has had a severe effect on the

economy. A number of basic foods, such as salt, sugar, cooking oil and eggs are rationed. Gasoline has gone up 300 per cent and is rationed to 30 liters a week for private cars. The result has been to relieve the capital of its chronic traffic jams and of much of its pollution. Other goods seem plentiful. The shops and street stalls in Mossadeq Avenue, the main north-south boulevard, are crammed with fresh fruit, vegetables and fish from the Caspian. There are plenty of consumer durables, and no sign of any queues.

At night there is little movement on the streets, although there is no official curfew. Cars have pieces of carbon paper taped over their headlights to reduce the glare, and restaurants, theaters and cinemas are closed in the evening. Groups of Pasdaran, or revolutionary guards, invariably dressed in khaki windcheaters and blue jeans and armed with automatic rifles, search cars at unofficial roadblocks.

By day the only signs of war are the broad pieces of tape criss-crossed on windows to prevent them shattering. Occasionally, a tank-carrier rumbles through the streets.

Tehran's main airport appears to have suffered slight damage when the end of the runway was bombed by Iraq's MiGs in the early days of the war, but Iran Air has resumed three flights a week to and from Europe, as well as some domestic and cargo flights.

Iran is also believed to have resumed oil exports, perhaps up to 300,000 barrels a day (compared with between 600,000 and one million before the war started 13 weeks ago). While its main refinery at Abadan is out of action as a result of Iraqi bombing and shelling, at least three other refineries, at Tehran, Isfahan and Shiraz, are still functioning, and Iran is able to use alternative pipelines to those destroyed to supply its domestic needs and to pump oil to berths at Karg island.

U.S., Israel officials hold defense talks

Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24 — High-level American and Israeli defense officials met here earlier this month, but Pentagon spokesmen have declined to comment on the meeting other than to say the discussions included "the current Middle East situation and U.S.-Israeli relations."

A Pentagon spokesman said the two days of talks on Dec. 4 and 5 were part of ongoing defense discussions held at various levels between American and Israeli defense officials. The latest meeting was hosted by Assistant Secretary of Defense David E. McGiffert, who is the assistant secretary of defense for international security affairs, and attended by an Israeli delegation headed by Deputy Defense Minister Mordechai Zippori.

While U.S. spokesmen here were tight-lipped on releasing information about the talks, Zippori was quoted in the English-language *Jerusalem Post* as saying that "important decisions" were reached.

The United States and Israel were originally scheduled to hold defense talks earlier this fall which were described as "strategic cooperation talks," by the Israeli press. These sessions were postponed before the U.S. election by the Carter administration. Following the postponement Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin leaked the existence of an ongoing "strategic dialogue" between the two countries to the Israeli press.

The Pentagon would not say whether the recently concluded meeting between Zippori and McGiffert was rescheduled from earlier this year.

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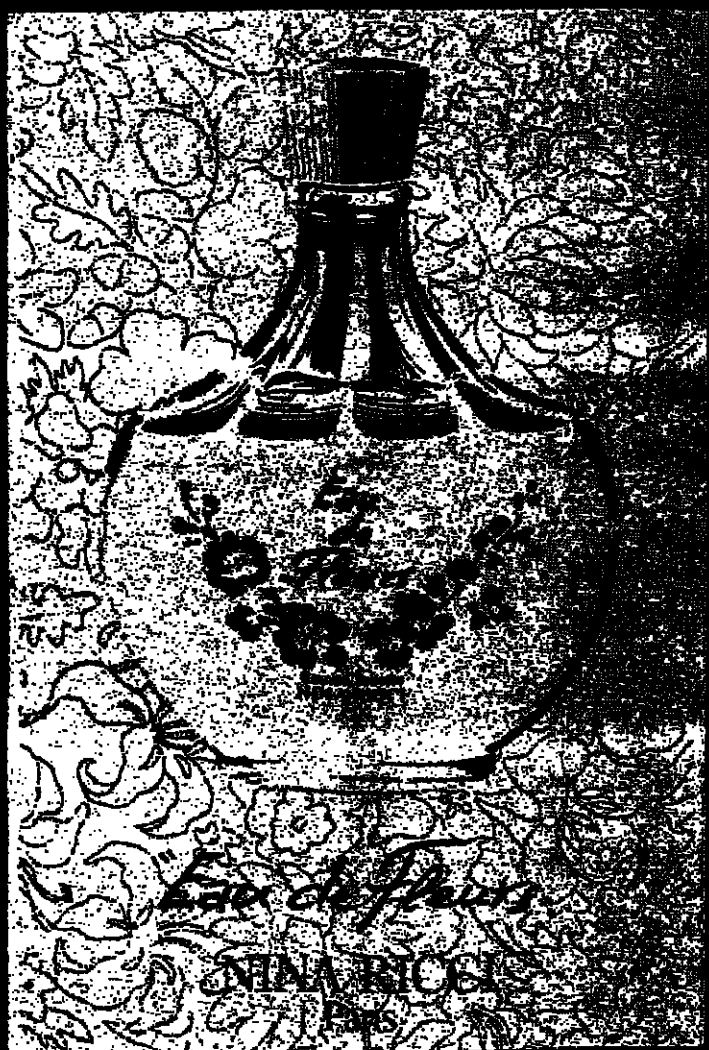
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Cover-up said likely in Salvador deaths

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24 (R) — A U.S. mission which went to El Salvador to investigate the murders of four American women told President Jimmy Carter in a report made public Tuesday it was probable that authorities there tried to cover up the deaths.

Bombs explode in Sydney store

SYDNEY, Australia, Dec. 24 (AP) — Two bombs exploded on the ground floor of a department store in the heart of Sydney Wednesday afternoon, minutes after thousands of shoppers were evacuated, police said.

"We made it just in time," said a police spokesman. Two persons were injured in the blast that blew out the windows of the Woolworth store, scattering glass across one of the city's busiest intersections. Police said one of the victims suffered an injured ear drum and the other was cut by flying glass.

There was no immediate word on who was responsible for the bombing, but there was speculation the blasts might be linked to an extortion threat against the department store group, one of Australia's largest retailers with 150 stores in the Sydney area.

It was the third bombing of an Australian Woolworths in the past week and came two months after an extortionist demanded the equivalent of \$936,000 in a threat against the downtown store that was bombed Wednesday.

Roman Catholic nuns and a lay worker were buried knew they had died "at least after the fact" but failed to tell the U.S. Embassy, suggesting "a high probability that an attempt was made to conceal the deaths."

Moreover, they said, it could be concluded that senior members of the security forces were unaware of the facts only if the local authorities did not tell their superiors of the bodies found some 25 km from El Salvador airport. They said, however, that they had "no evidence suggesting that any senior Salvadoran authorities were implicated in the murders themselves."

The report said two of the nuns, who had arrived by air from a religious meeting in Nicaragua, and the two other women, who met them at the airport, had been shot in the head.

Carter suspended \$25 million in U.S. financial aid to El Salvador — where more than 9,000 people have been killed in political violence between left and right this year — after it was learned that the four missionaries had been shot and buried in a common grave. But \$20 million in economic aid was resumed last week, after El Salvador's civilian-military junta was replaced by a civilian president and after Carter's envoys told him the authorities were attempting to find the murderers.

Miniatures find home

PARIS, Dec. 24 (AFP) — One of the world's richest collections of miniatures has found a new home in the Marmottan Museum here.

Larger and more representative than the miniature collection in the Louvre, the 321 works belonged to art dealer and race horse owner Daniel Wildenstein, who donated them to the Marmottan upon his election to the French Academy of Beaux Arts.



Valéry Giscard d'Estaing

Singapore regime returned to power

SINGAPORE, Dec. 24 (AFP) — The ruling People's Action Party (PAP) was returned to power Tuesday for another five years when it won a simple majority in the 75-member parliament. With 37 seats assured on nomination day without a contest, the party needed only one seat to make election victory a formality.

The first of the 38 results announced Tuesday night went to PAP candidate Dr. Yeoh Ghim Seng, the speaker who decisively beat his Singapore Democratic Party opponent. The party's victory was in no doubt at any time and the only element of anticipation is whether the opposition will be able to clinch one or more seats to break the party monopoly over parliament since independence in 1965.

In the 1968, 1972 and 1976 elections the party made a sweep of all the seats.

PAP, led by Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew, has promised the people continuing stability, "good government" and economic development, for which it sought a massive vote of confidence.

2 Giscards win 1-franc libel awards

PARIS, Dec. 24 (Agencies) — The French appellate court has ordered a satirical weekly to pay one franc (22 cents) each to two cousins of French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing in a libel case stemming from an article published on a diamond scandal.

A year ago, the *Canard Enchaîné* (*Shackled Duck*) published an alleged photostat of a 1973 letter signed by deposed Central African Emperor Jean Bedel Bokassa ordering the gift of a 30-carat set of diamonds to Giscard d'Estaing, then France's finance minister.

The two cousins, Francois and Jacques Giscard d'Estaing, were connected to the scandal in an article the investigative weekly published Oct. 10 of last year. The article's headline suggested the affair was a "French Watergate," referring to the U.S. political scandal during the administration of President Richard Nixon.

The appellate court's decision Tuesday overturned an April 16 ruling by a lower court. The earlier court decision had awarded the one franc damage — the sum sought by each of the two cousins — only to Francois Giscard d'Estaing, president of the French Bank for External Commerce.

The lower court had ruled prosecution lawyers had not adequately proved intent of libel in the case of Jacques Giscard d'Estaing, financial director of the French Atomic Energy Commission. The initial publication of the diamond affair, dubbed "Giscard" in the *Canard*, triggered a flurry of stories in France's three main opposition newspapers that also accused Giscard d'Estaing of accepting the diamonds.

Urges \$10b boost

Report hits NATO strength

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24 (AP) — A congressional analysis has concluded that NATO forces are now inadequate to defend central Europe against a concerted Soviet attack, even with the use of tactical nuclear weapons.

The analysis by the congressional budget office said it would take almost three months for allied troops to mass in the numbers needed to stave off an attack by Warsaw Pact forces, with the Soviets holding a decisive edge during most of that time.

The study said the inadequacy of NATO forces to respond to a surprise attack suggests "an early resort to nuclear weapons," with NATO making the first nuclear strike. But the study said such a move would allow only "a temporary respite" from the attack.

The analysis said the Soviets would reply with their own nuclear weapons and added that NATO installations are far more vulnerable to tactical nuclear attack than their Soviet counterparts. The report was prepared by the budget office at the request of the Senate budget committee as part of a review of U.S. defense needs. The study laid six possible opinions for beefing up defense forces in Europe and elsewhere, at costs ranging from \$9.9 billion to \$10.3 billion over the next eight years.

The budget office, which is a non-partisan research arm of Congress, did not make recommendations among the options. The study said current NATO planning in Europe anticipates an attack by about 90 Warsaw Pact divisions. The average Soviet tank division comprises about 9,700 soldiers.

But the budget office said there was "little likelihood that the pact would so confine its attack." Even with the Soviet need to defend its eastern flank against Communist China, the analysis said, the Soviet attack more likely would involve at least 120 divisions.

"NATO's forces have too few divisions to defend against the 120-division attack," the study said. "Even resorting to theater (tactical) nuclear weapons would give NATO only a temporary respite before it would begin to feel the debilitating effects of pact nuclear counterstrikes."

The study said it would take NATO about 90 days to move reinforcements into central Europe. During that time, the analysis said, the Soviets would have sufficient strength to tie down allied forces on the entire front, while launching pinpoint attacks on critical areas with a 6-to-1 manpower advantage — too overwhelming for NATO to resist.

In drawing up options for congressional consideration, the budget office offered two different types of defense for Europe: an "elastic defense," where allied forces retreat slowly, gaining time at the expense of land, and a "steadfast defense," holding a firm line against the Soviets. The steadfast defense requires more soldiers, equipment and money, the budget office noted.

Accused rebels held

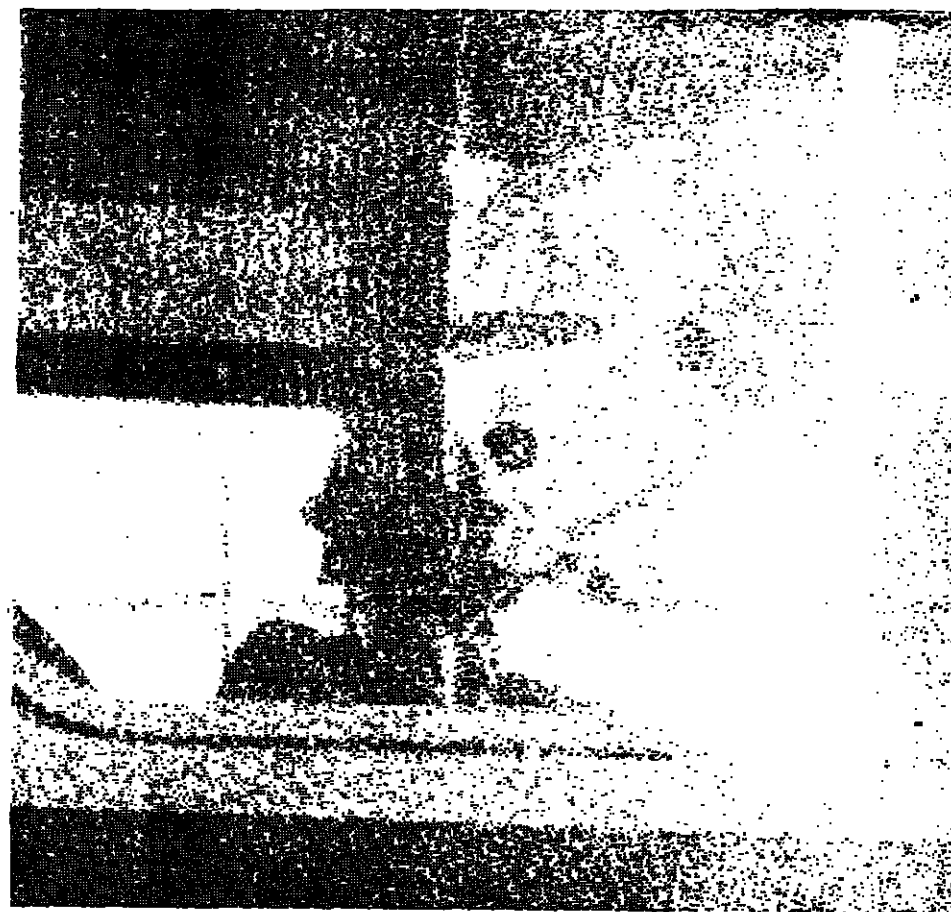
MILAN, Italy Dec. 24 (R) — Police announced the arrest Tuesday of 17 suspected urban guerrillas, including an employee of Italy's biggest labor federation.

All but three of the arrests were made in the Milan area and most of those detained are believed to have been members of *Prima Linea F* (Front Line), the country's best-known subversive group after the Red Brigades. Police said the arrests were part of an operation in several cities that netted two Red Brigades suspects in Turin Monday and another one in Genoa earlier Tuesday. The operation was apparently largely based on the confessions of a former guerrilla.

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INACTIVE: Violently active for a decade, Japan's radicals now appear to have slipped into senescence. Here, a Red Army activist holds passengers hostage on a bus in Tokyo in 1977.

Violence backfires

Japan radicals on the wane

TOKYO, Dec. 24 (AP) — Japan's political radicals, who for two decades attracted world attention with violent, ritualistic attacks on the establishment, have fallen on bad times. The leaders who once could put thousands of chanting followers into the streets of Tokyo in military-style confrontations with police, have seen their organizations dwindle to a few hundred diehards. Much of their time reportedly is now spent plotting against each other.

Right-wing nationalists, seeking a return to the militarism that led Japan into World War II, are common sights in the big cities. They cruise in convoys of sound trucks, flying the rising sun flag and exhorting passersby with slogans and recorded patriotic music.

The idea that Japan amend its pacifist constitution, written under U.S. guidance after the war, is gaining ground among conservative members of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party. The call for a return to militarism, however, has little popular appeal among a people who recall the war and the atom bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Leftists, who attracted large numbers of student followers between 1969 and 1972 era, lost an important rallying point with American withdrawal from Vietnam, and have alienated many supporters through a series of violent incidents.

In recent years, leftists have concentrated their energy against Tokyo's Narita International Airport, which they oppose in an unlikely coalition with local farmers who object to sacrificing their rice paddies to the 1,040 hectare facility.

The protests delayed the opening of the airport by seven years until 1978. There are still occasional attacks on outlying airport buildings with gasoline bombs and steel pipes. Six people have died over the years in anti-Narita violence.

However, the two big, surviving factions of the once-powerful Zengakuren student movement are embroiled in a blood feud which has claimed eight lives this year and 80 since 1969. The Chukaku, or "Middle Core Faction," struck most recently, beating to death five members of the rival Kakumaru, or "Revolutionary Marxist Faction," on a Tokyo street on Oct. 30.

The ambush occurred in daylight and the brazen attackers disappeared before police reached the scene. Spokesmen for the

Chukaku claimed responsibility for the murders, however.

Chukaku leader Makoto Matsuo, in a rare interview, explained his organization's motive and threw some light on what drives Japanese extremists to violence.

"The recent killings are basic to the concept of our movement," said Matsuo, interviewed in a stark Chukaku cinderblock meeting room on the campus of Hosei University, a private school in Tokyo.

"The Kakumaru oppose our concept of revolution," said Matsuo, 30. He looked like a lawyer in his three-piece blue pinstripe suit. "The killings are part of a process that will lead to an overall violent revolution."

The ambush was carried out, he said, by an understood military branch of the Chukaku formed "to conduct guerrilla activities against the establishment and rival organizations. They are responsible for the October incident."

Asked who ordered the Oct. 30 slayings, he said, "The decision was made by the politburo," a committee of 6 to 12 persons who run the Chukaku. Matsuo declined to say whether he is a politburo member, but veteran observers remember him as a top leader of the parent Zengakuren movement.

Elimination of the Kakumaru, said Matsuo, is the first step "in a violent, worldwide Marxist revolution."

Despite wide publicity given the latest radical killings, the Chukakus' open acceptance of responsibility and two police raids on its headquarters, there have been no arrests. Records show there has been only one arrest in connection with some 80 extremist killings over an 11-year period. One popular theory is that the police are not particularly interested in solving the crimes as long as they are confined to the radicals' own ranks.

Authorities say there are three surviving splinters from the Zengakuren movement, each consisting of several hundred members of varying shades of commitment, plus, perhaps a dozen members of the Japanese Red Army, a violent political organization which was born in the student movement and operated overseas in the 1970s.

There are 120,000 student rightists associated with 550 identified organizations bearing such colorful names as the Goblins and Black Dragon societies. Authorities say there are as many as 20,000 "closet rightists" who occasionally commit acts of violence.

Utah breaks losing streak

Celtics hit highest score, down Denver

NEW YORK, Dec. 24 (AP) — The Denver Nuggets were uneasy to begin with — they were playing Boston in their home town — and the Celtics have a 14-1 home record this season.

"You don't exactly come into this place with super confidence," says Denver Nuggets coach Doug Moe.

The Celtics showed Tuesday night why they're nearly unbeatable at home, outscoring the National Basketball Association's highest-scoring team, 136-128.

The Celtics rallied from a 64-63 halftime deficit as Larry Bird triggered a burst of 12 straight points with a pair of long shots at the outset of the third period. Then Boston went on to a 37-28 advantage in the quarter and closed, finishing with a 61.4 per cent marksmanship on 54 field goals in 88 attempts.

Cedric Maxwell led the Celtics with a season-high 29 points, while Bird had 27 and late Archibald 24.

In other NBA action, Phoenix whipped Detroit 113-104 — Atlanta stopped Washington 100-83 — Utah tripped Cleveland 101-96 — Kansas City edged New Jersey 125-109 — Chicago held off New York 117-114 — Golden State defeated Orlando 114-99 and Portland turned back Los Angeles 108-102.

Parish contributed 18 points to the Boston team as the Celtics went on their biggest

scoring binge of the season for their eighth consecutive victory, their 10th in the last 11 starts.

Alex English scored 29 points and Dan Issel 23 in a vain effort for Denver, which lost its fifth game in a row and its 10th in the last 11 games.

Walter Davis came off the bench in the second period and scored seven of his 17 points to break open a close game as Phoenix beat Detroit. The victory was the fifth in a row for the Suns.

The teams played to a 22-22 tie in the first period before Davis provided the impetus for

Khan aids Pakistan recovery

By Shahid Orakzai
Arab News Correspondent

KARACHI, Dec. 24 — Pacer Imran Khan and spinner Iqbal Qasim got an early break through for Pakistan when they captured five front line wickets of touring West Indies for only 44 runs in reply to homeside's first innings total of 128 in their 3rd test.

Windies are one up in the 4-test series after they won the second at Faisalabad. The 3rd test was delayed by rains but a turning wicket could fetch a decision.

Batting after lunch on the 3rd day Windies lost their first wickets at 19 but another 4 fell

Phoenix. By the time Davis left the lineup at the 4:30 mark, the Pistons were down 42-33.

Center Alvan Adams and Johnny High later combined for 14 points in the final four minutes as Phoenix outscored the Pistons 18-4 to lead 60-37 at halftime.

Eddie Johnson's 24 points helped Atlanta down Washington. The Hawks had a six-point margin, at 78-72, as the fourth period began, but then broke the game open by outscoring Bullets 22-11 in the final quarter.

Charlie Criss added 18 points for Atlanta. Washington was led by Elvin Hayes' 22.

In the short spell of 25 runs. Imran bowling his fastest claimed the wickets of Faoud Bacus, Kalicharan and skipper Clive Lloyd while Desmond Haynes and Viv Richards fell prey to lofty strokes off spinner Qasim. Windies were seen nervous as Pakistani bowlers gained control of the game.

Earlier resuming their over night 68 for 6 Pakistan were able to pull off to 128 mainly through their skipper Javed Miandad who played a captain's innings and somewhat compensated for his wrong decision to bat first on a half dry wicket. Javed made 60 runs but gave an easy catch to counterpart Lloyd off Sylvester Clarke just after his 54 run 7th wicket partnership with Wasim Bari was broken.

Bari was caught by keeper Murray off Clarke after scoring valuable 23. Injured Zaheer Abbas who resumed his innings was short of partners on the other end as he returned with 13 not out.

Artistic Sylvester Clarke went close to a Hatrick as he bowled Javed and Qasim in two deliveries. He returned with the highest grading of 4 for 27. Colin Croft and Joel Garner took three and two wickets respectively for the same score.

Watt has operation

LONDON, Dec. 24 (AP) — Jim Watt, the WBC World lightweight boxing champion, will be out of action for about four months due to his operation for appendicitis, his manager, Terry Lawless, said Tuesday.

Watt plans to defend his title against Alexis Arguello of Nicaragua.

Lawless said: "I have received no offers for Watt to fight Arguello in the United States. I hope the fight will be in Glasgow."



CHANCE: Vitas Gerulaitis, seen in earlier action, who could still reach the Volvo Grand Prix finals.

Players get last chance

NEW YORK, Dec. 24 (AP) — One Australian Open in Melbourne, the fourth and final grand slam event of the 1980 tennis season, will offer players the last opportunity to earn Volvo grand prix points in an attempt to qualify for the \$400,000 Volvo Masters, scheduled for Jan. 14-18 in New York's Madison Square Garden.

The masters features the eight players with the most points from the 92-tournament Volvo Grand Prix circuit.

So far, six players have earned berths in the round-robin event, including defending champion Bjorn Borg of Sweden, 1979 Masters winner John McEnroe of the United States, 1978 titlist Jimmy Connors of the United States, Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia, and Americans Brian Gottfried and Vitas Gerulaitis.

Leading the quest for the final two berths are fellow Argentines Jose-Luis Clerc and Guillermo Vilas. The only other players with a chance to qualify for the masters are Americans Brian Gottfried and Vitas Gerulaitis.

Meanwhile, in California Arthur Ashe, non-playing captain of the American Davis Cup team, has chosen his squad for next year's first round Davis Cup match, with Mexico next March.

His singles players are John McEnroe and Roscoe Tanner, with Stan Smith and Bob Lutz playing the doubles.

Keeps losing money

MAPS gives top fees

NEW YORK, Dec. 23 (AP) — If there is anything boxing people enjoys as much as a good fight, it's talking about one another, preferably in uncompromising fashion.

So these days the boys are having a ball talking about Muhammad Ali Professional Sports, Inc. (MAPS), which has consistently lost money on its boxing promotions over the past two years, yet is staging an extravaganza at Madison Square Garden Feb. 23 in which the purses total about 9 million dollars.

One rumor has it that Arab oil money is involved. Others have the maps gold source as investors of questionable character from the Orient and South America. MAPS' losses have been placed anywhere from 3 million to 7 million dollars, depending on who you talk to.

"...When we put this firm together, we got some friends to put up about 12 million dollars to work with," says MAPS president Harold Smith, a 37-year-old former rock concert promoter who says his wife comes from a "very wealthy family. My wife and I put up 4 million dollars, another friend 4 million dollars and two others 2 million dollars apiece."

"We have lost close to 2 million dollars in 23 shows," says Smith. "I lost a little less than I expected...and I think we're going to win."

MAPS goal is to corner the market by commanding loyalty through purses, says Smith. So far, despite the flow of red ink, fighters on MAPS shows have been paid top dollar.

"We absolutely do not sign options," says Smith of the practice of having fighters sign an option for a specified number of fights for a promoter. "I'm giving them (the fighters) the largest piece of the pie now, but there's a big enough pie for a piece for everybody."

But the pie could crumble with the Garden show in February, which is called "This is it."

To most people, "This is it" refers to the bigness of the show, which features unbeaten heavyweight Gerry Cooney and spectacular Thomas "hit man" Hearns, the World Boxing Association welterweight champion.

But Smith said it will be "This is it" if the closed-circuit television show flops. "If this show falls in New York, then it will be 'remember Harold Smith.'"

Smith admits that so far the only show that Muhammad Ali has gotten a percentage from is the one in which Hearns won the WBA title by stopping Pipino Cuevas in two rounds last Aug. 2. According to Smith, MAPS made about \$800,000 from the fight which took

place in Hearns' hometown of Detroit and was shown on closed-circuit television on a limited basis. Under a licensing agreement for the use of his name, Ali gets \$10,000 a show or 25 per cent of the net profit, whichever is greater.

The Feb. 23 card will be a closed-circuit telecast to about 500 locations throughout the United States, and Smith says, "we're looking at 30 million dollars from the Garden show."

But it comes in the wake of the closed-circuit telecasts of Ali's mismatch loss to Larry Holmes and Roberto Duran's controversial quitting against Sugar Ray Leonard, which left a sour taste in the mouths of many fans.

But should the show succeed at the box office, MAPS could have a sweet piece of pie. Smith says he has 100 locations, meaning he has the equipment needed for the telecast and will not have to share percentages with exhibitors, but will only have to pay rent at those locations.

Cooney, the top-ranked heavyweight, who will fight Ken Norton in a scheduled 10-rounder, and Hearns, who will defend against tough Wilfred Benitez, certainly are not the only stars on the show. In what could be the most competitive bout, Matthew Saad Muhammad, the WBA champion, and Eddie Mustafa Muhammad, the WBC champ, will fight for the universal light heavyweight title recognition.

Wilfred Gomez will defend the WBC super featherweight championship against Mike Ayala and, Smith says, there will be another title bout on the card.

It is the biggest one-site show since the "Carnival of champions" in New York's Polo grounds Sept. 23, 1977. On that show, Lou Ambers retained the lightweight title by outpointing Pedro Montanez — Barney Ross outpointed Ceferino Garcia to keep the welterweight championship — Harry Jeffra won the bantamweight title with a decision over Sixto Escobar, and Fred Apostoli scored a 10th-round knockout over Marcel Thil in what was billed as a middleweight title bout, but was not recognized as such by the New York State Athletic Commission.

The net gate from a crowd of 32,700 was \$198,644 and the total purse money was \$170,000. Ambers got the biggest purse of \$65,000 while Jeffra's paycheck was \$2,500. On Feb. 23, Cooney, Norton, Hearns, Benitez and the two Muhammads each are getting at least 1 million dollars.

Hilal moves to top position

By Munir Muhammad

JEDDAH, Dec. 24 — The mid-week matches of the 10th week of the Saudi Arabian football league ended Tuesday night in a draw with Alhadi beating Jabalein 3-1 in a mid game. In the afternoon, Ittifaq defeated Jabab 2-1 in Riyadh in an equally dominated match.

Monday, Nasr was defeated 1-0 by Qadisiyya in Dammam — only three days after the team's overwhelming victory of 6-3 over Iadha. In Jeddah, Ittihad and Nahda were tied 1-1, while Hilal won 4-0 against Riyadh in Riyadh.

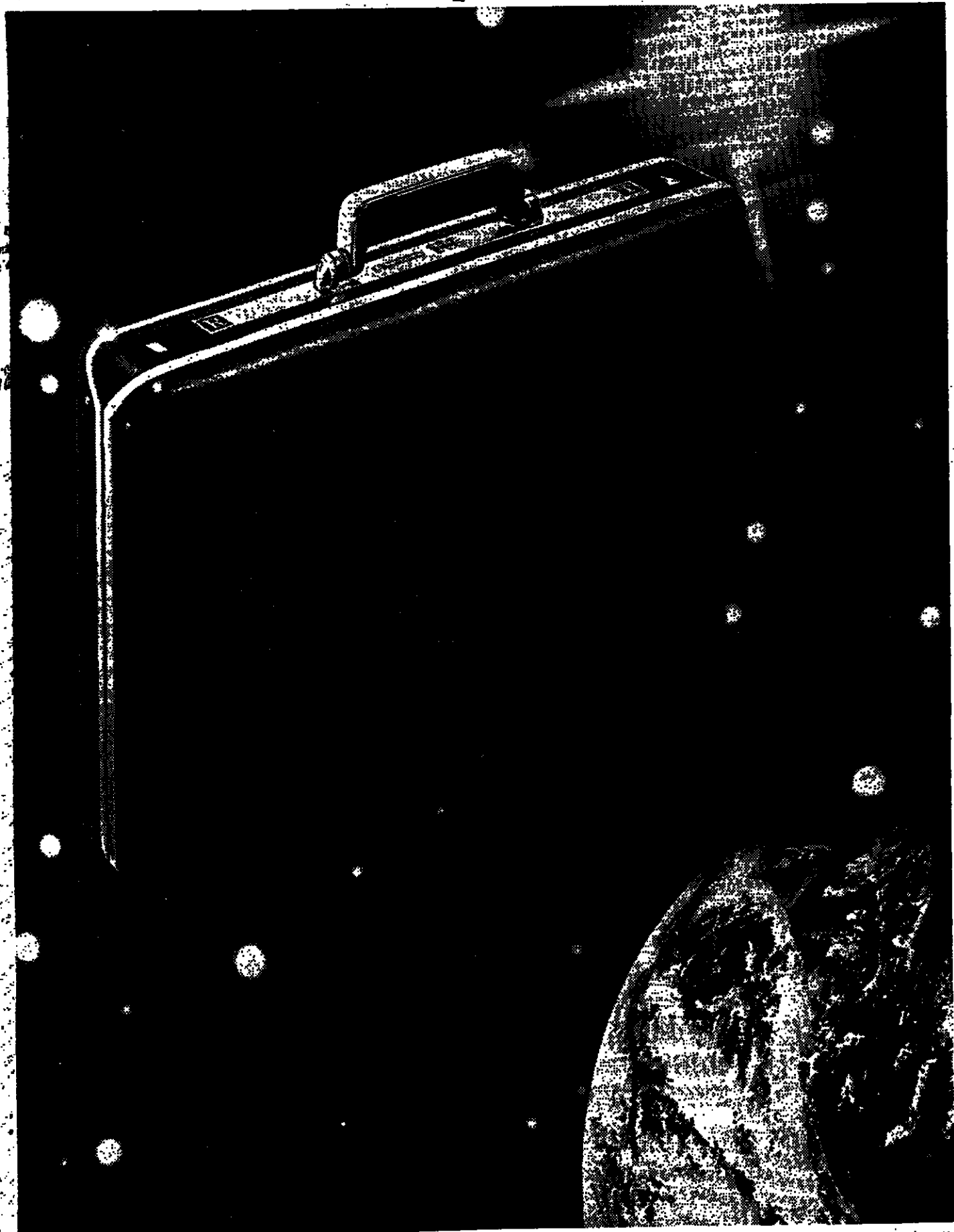
Hilal caught up with Ittihad who has been leading the league for almost it began. With last week's defeat to Ittihad and Monday's draw, Ittihad lost three precious points. Hilal, at defeated by Shahab last week, but the team was sure of investing the two points of a match against Riyadh, which is at the bottom of the list.

Qadisiyya also stands in the first place with Hilal and Ittihad in points, but lacks the number of goals thus retreating to the second place. After defeating Alhadi 3-2 last week, Qadisiyya won against Nasr to snatch four points from two of the major teams.

This week will witness the encounter of the four major teams. Hilal will meet Ittihad in Jeddah Thursday, and Alhadi and Nasr will play in Riyadh Friday. Nahda will play against Riyadh in Dammam Thursday, Shahab will face Qadisiyya in Riyadh and Ittifaq will meet Jabalein in Hail the next day.

Standings:	G	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
Hilal	10	5	2	3	25	12	13
Ittihad	10	4	1	5	20	7	13
Qadisiyya	10	4	3	1	17	16	13
Nasr	10	5	3	2	27	19	12
Alhadi	10	4	2	4	15	11	12
Ittifaq	10	4	4	2	17	15	10
Nahda	10	3	3	4	14	18	10
Shahab	10	3	4	3	16	15	9
Jabalein	10	2	7	1	7	23	5
Riyadh	10	1	8	1	5	27	3

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Zimbabwe outlines foreign policy

By Bruce Johns

SALISBURY —

An avowed Marxist through seven years of guerrilla war, Prime Minister Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe has confounded critics by steering his country through strictly neutral waters since independence from Britain eight months ago. "He's about as Marxist as Richard Nixon," a Western diplomat who has often conferred with the 56-year-old former guerrilla leader told me. "He's one of the few truly nonaligned heads of government."

That is not entirely true. While Mugabe has diplomatic relations with the United States, Britain, France, West Germany and China, he is yet to establish links with the Soviet Union. Mugabe remains embittered that Moscow ignored his pleas for help through the war and instead backed his rival guerrilla chieftain, Joshua Nkomo, to the hilt. But that will change within the next few months when relations are expected to be formalized.

While the chill in relations between the two countries has been common knowledge few of Zimbabwe's 7.4 million people are aware of where their government stands in other foreign policy matters.

Foreign Minister Simon Muzenda, in an interview with the *Observer* has provided a detailed examination of where Zimbabwe stands on such foreign affairs as Israel and Iran, SALT, the Western Sahara, Namibia and nonalignment.

"Zimbabwe adheres to the principle of nonalignment," the 58-year-old former carpenter explained. "We believe that as an independent state we should keep out of superpower politics such as is practical in order that we can retain our national identity, determine our own destiny and remain a truly independent sovereign state. This is the guiding philosophy in our foreign policy."

While Zimbabwe was born out of a struggle backed by neighboring African countries the Socialist government's support for guerrillas training for an imminent war in South Africa stops at "moral, political and diplomatic," according to Muzenda.

Mugabe lived for almost five years in impoverished Mozambique and witnessed the grim cost to the people of that former Portuguese colony — in the thousands of lives lost and in the crippling blows to the economy — of devastating ground and air raids by Rhodesian forces ostensibly against guerrilla bases there. Thus, Zimbabwe has made it clear that it will not provide bases or material assistance for the guerrillas of either the African National Congress or the Pan African Congress training in countries like the Soviet Union, East Germany, Algeria, North Korea and Tanzania.

"We wholeheartedly align ourselves with those who are determined to see an end to the abominable system of apartheid and racism in South Africa," Muzenda said. Zimbabwe's stance on other foreign issues, spelled out by Muzenda, were:

Israel: "The Israelis fought for the establishment of their own nation. We have never understood why such people cannot understand the need for the establishment of a Palestinian nation. We accordingly support the Palestine Liberation Organization."

Iraq-Iran: "We regret that these two countries are at present locked up in conflict... we believe that efforts by the nonaligned movement should lead to the settlement of the dispute."

Chad: "We also regret that a situation of international conflict should have arisen. We commend the efforts of the Organization of African Unity Mediation Committee and were we invited to participate we would be only too happy to contribute."

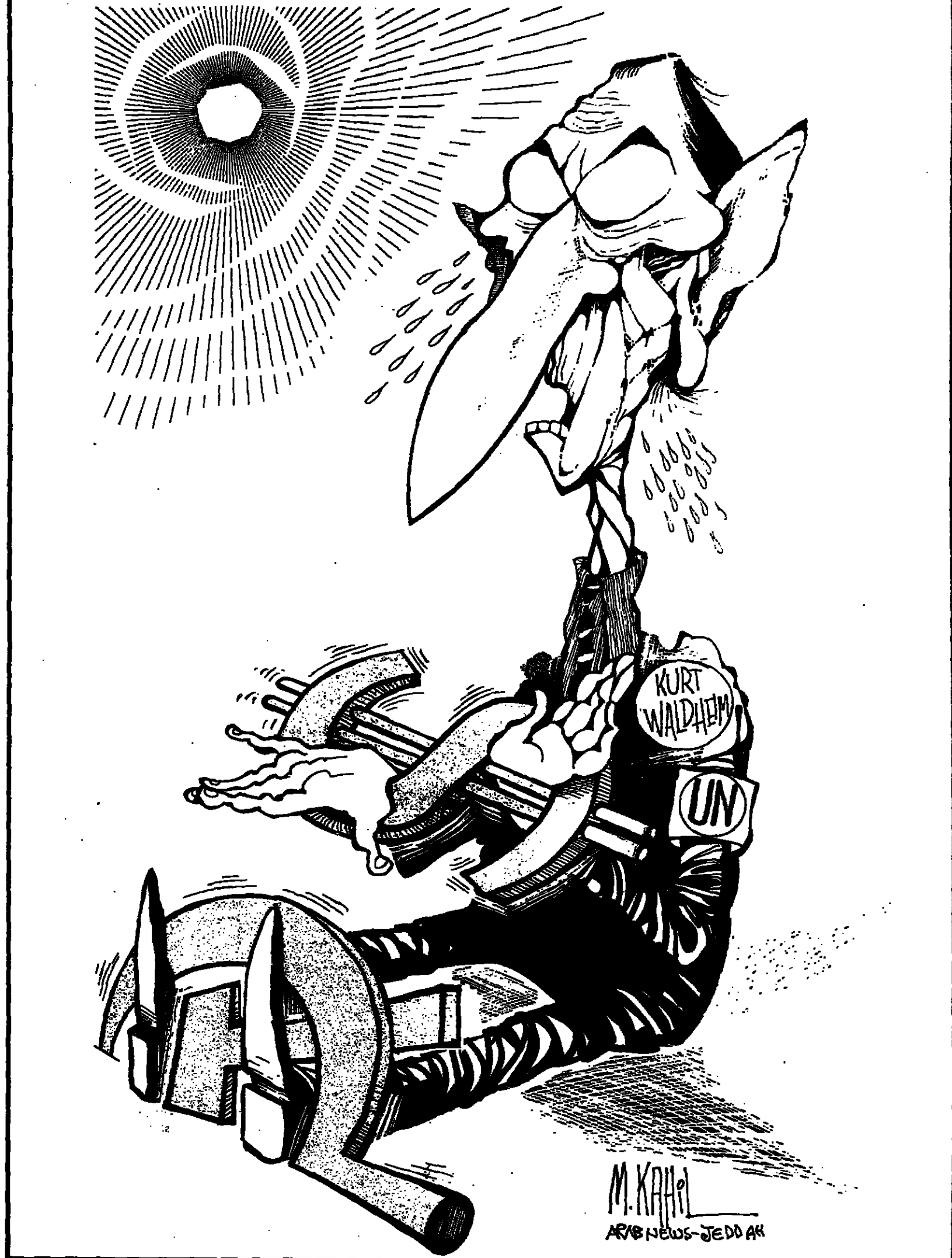
Western Sahara: "The struggle of the Saharawi Democratic Republic against alien domination is one we support very strongly. We recognize that the people should be left to determine their own future. This stand is based on our condemnation of all forms of colonialism."

Namibia (South-West Africa): "We are fully behind the work of the United Nations. We support the South-West African Peoples' Organization within the framework of the OAU Liberation Committee in the just and legitimate struggle against South African racist occupation."

SALT: "We recognize the international need for European security. We support all efforts toward the reduction and eventual halting of the arms buildup in Europe. We realize that European security has a great influence on the international security climate as a whole. The arms buildup is itself a wastage of resources which would rather be used for the acceleration of the development process in the less developed parts of the world."

Indian Ocean: "We are totally against those who would want to spread the danger of nuclear war to this area. We are hostile to the establishment of (military) bases and the introduction of nuclear carrying vessels. We believe very strongly that the Indian Ocean should be left a nuclear free zone and as a zone of peace."

Nonalignment: "We intend to work closely with all the other members of the organization in order to bring about greater unity and understanding among its members and make the organization an influential and independent factor in world politics." (OFNS)



Will Reagan resume nerve gas production?

By Richard Thaxton

WASHINGTON —

President-elect Ronald Reagan's transition team is busy trying to formulate an answer to one of the first difficult questions the new administration will face on taking office — whether to resume the production of nerve gas after a 10-year moratorium on the making of deadly chemical weapons.

Reagan will take office on Jan. 20, around the time a government panel is to release a study which may recommend resumption of nerve gas production. Congress, moreover, has put the controversial issue squarely into Reagan's court by deferring plans to fund a chemical weapons program which may ultimately cost between \$4 billion and \$8 billion. Reagan may now spare Congress the onus of taking the initiative on the nerve gas issue.

Some of Reagan's top advisers strongly favor a large-scale return to nerve gas production. They argue that the United States is suffering from a "nerve gas gap" because the Soviets have built up a huge stockpile of the weapons, which attack the nervous system and can kill in minutes or seconds.

As Republican Senator John Tower of Texas, a close Reagan defense adviser and the next chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, explained recently to a West German reporter: "Adolf Hitler had a huge stock of poison gas, but refrained from using it in World War Two through

fear of Allied retaliation. We want to put that same fear into the Soviets."

Tower predicted that Congress will fully fund the nerve gas program next year. It has appropriated \$3.5 million for a gas factory in Arkansas, but no money to begin making the gas. The U.S. already has a stockpile of chemical weapons, many of them stored in West Germany with the reluctant acquiescence of the Bonn government, but Tower says there are not enough to deter the Soviets.

Critics of the proposed program, such as Colorado's Democratic Senator Gary Hart, do not deny the Soviets have a large stock of the weapons. But they do deny there is evidence the Kremlin produced any of the deadly gas after 1976, when negotiations started between the superpowers on a treaty to ban lethal chemicals.

Hart argues that an American resumption of nerve gas production would kill the treaty, lead to a chemical arms race between the superpowers, and also set a bad example and encourage proliferation of the means of chemical warfare.

At present, only the Soviets, the Americans and the French are known to possess nerve gas. West Germany, Norway, and Denmark have eschewed any participation in chemical warfare. The West Germans, who fear a war involving nerve gas might well be played out on their soil, have passed a law barring their troops from training with the weapons

and their government from ever producing nerve gas. The British destroyed the last of their stockpile of chemical weapons in 1957. One reason why many in Western Europe are so opposed to chemical warfare is that it would strike most severely at civilians. Troops with masks and protective suits can withstand a nerve gas attack.

The Soviets have a larger quantity of defensive equipment, which has led proponents of Western nerve gas production to conclude Moscow is preparing to wage chemical warfare — a conclusion they say is reinforced by reports that the Soviets have used lethal chemicals in Afghanistan.

But Pentagon sources say the anti-chemical gear of the NATO forces is more sophisticated than that of the Soviets, and deny there is any solid evidence the Russians have used deadly gas against the Afghans. Whether the new Congress, which due to the November elections will be much more conservative than the present one, will authorize the nerve gas plan is not clear. The Senate will be in the hands of conservative Republicans from next January, but the delaying tactics of opponents can still be effective.

Oregon Senator Mark Hatfield, for instance, thwarted a \$19 million nerve gas appropriation recently by threatening to prolong debate on the issue and prevent other bills from passing.

CHAD DIMENSIONS

Western experts who have been following developments in Chad have started analyzing the underlying significance of the military victory gained there by President Goukouni Oueddei against his rival and former Defense Minister Hissine Habre. Goukouni's campaign was brought to successful conclusion after two weeks of fighting, in which Libyan artillery, armor and aircraft played a decisive role in enabling his forces to capture N'Djamena, the capital.

The question looming largest in analysts' minds concerns Libya's ability to ferry its forces across around 1,000 kilometers of difficult desert terrain, and then to bring them into such effective play at the end of it. The guess is that Soviet experts helped plan and carry out the feat; and it is this which has caused most concern to the West.

The ultimate loser in Chad — the immediate one is Habre — must be France, whose own efforts at intervention against Goukouni ended in failure. France has protested bitterly against Libya's intervention, but now it appears that it is too late to do anything about it.

Beyond this, Libya's action is seen by the rest of the African states as indicating a possible new phase of the East-West confrontation in Africa, one in which wars are waged by proxy, through the intervention of such third parties as Libya. Some are even wondering whether N'Djamena has in fact become now the Kabul of Africa.

Saudi Arabian Press Review

The 'Saudi' TriStar incident near Doha formed the headline story in *Al Jazirah*, *Al Riyadh* and *Al Bilad* Wednesday. *Okaz*, led with Riyadh Governor Prince Salman's reaffirmation that the upcoming Mecca Islamic summit conference would be the starting point for a most significant get-together. *Al Nadwa* used as its lead story a report on the unified working paper of the Jerusalem Committee which would be placed before the Islamic summit in Mecca.

Al Medina also said in its headline story that a "practical" program for the liberation of Jerusalem would be submitted to the Islamic summit. *Al Yom* gave lead prominence to Syria's determination to "confront" Israel in Lebanon.

Newspapers frontpaged renewed fighting in Zahle, Lebanon, in which scores of people were reported killed and injured. They also gave front page coverage to a statement by Sheikh Abdullah ibn Hussein Al-Ahmar, a member of the North Yemen Advisory Council, in which he reiterated that relations between Saudi Arabia and North Yemen are firm and would not be affected by dubious campaigns. In a page one story, *Al Yom* reported that the press in Manila praised Saudi Arabia's moderate attitude inside the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). *Al Jazirah* gave front-page highlight to the escalating internal conflict in Iran, while *Al Riyadh* reported in a page one story that the Japanese Prime Minister would meet PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat during his coming visit to Tokyo.

Newspaper editorials commented on the Kingdom's stance on the Gulf security in the light of Crown Prince Fahd's reaffirmation that real security will prevail only when the region is kept away from international conflicts and foreign intervention. *Al Riyadh* noted that Saudi Arabia stresses the need for Gulf security through the solidarity of the Gulf states and not through foreign intervention of any kind. The paper added that the states of the region must bear in mind the dimensions of international tussles, especially after the statements of some hostile major powers. It gave out a warning that these powers are making attempts once again to realize their old dreams in the Gulf waters and are anxious to make the Gulf a cell for destructive strife. The paper emphasized that the preservation of Gulf security is the major responsibility of its own people who are called upon to overcome all hostile campaigns launched by the Zionist and Communist elements.

On the same subject, *Al Jazirah* held the view that no country of the world would be subject to any security risk if it is kept away from encounters with the two superpowers. It added that Saudi Arabia maintains its relations with other countries, mainly with the superpowers, on the basis of equality within the framework of mutual respect for national sovereignty. The paper denounced the Soviet Union's Communist policy which derives its inspiration from the idea of trusteeship on the smaller nations of the Third World and, through them, on the peoples of the Gulf region. Through its Socialist-

Communist ideology, the Soviet Union has turned itself into a colonialist state of the first order although it claims support and equality for the toiling classes, said the paper.

Okaz also dwelled on the same idea that real security could be maintained only when the Gulf region is kept free from international tussles and foreign interventions. The paper held the conviction that attempts of domination or expansion by the major powers constitute an obstacle before world stability and keeps constant tension in hot regions. It added that the Soviet attitude does not show any good intentions but speaks of the policy of domination which the countries of the world have always refused to accept. The tragedy of the Muslim people of Afghanistan would remain a blot on the history of Soviet policy, which has been trying to realize its ambitions under the smokescreen of the call for peace and stability as declared by Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev during his recent visit to New Delhi.

On the other hand, *Al Medina* dwelled on Saudi-Yemeni ties saying they continue to grow stronger and would crush the hopes of tendentious elements trying to disrupt their relations. The reinforcement of bilateral relations reflects the Saudi Arabian government's keenness on the maintenance of good-neighborly relations with Yemen, said the paper, adding that the evil forces would never succeed in their vile attempts at the Saudi-Yemeni relations.

Discussing the Israeli plan, *Al Yom* noted that the withdrawal of its program from the Knesset (parliament) concerning the annexation of the Golan

Heights took place as a result of its refusal by both the Begin government and the opposition despite their varying reasons to it. The paper held the view that the Israeli government did so in order to avoid political embarrassment and to devote itself fully to swallow

South Lebanon. It added that the Begin government is trying to strengthen its position in the coming elections, so that the rival parties are not able to exploit the issue and consequently gain hold of the government.



Pedestrians: "What else can we do if your drivers have no regard for pedestrian crossing?"

Okaz

In French hospital

Computer checks diseases at record pace

By Paul Webster

PARIS — A computer is to take over most of the burden of diagnosis from doctors in French general practice.

The computer, known as the ADM — medical diagnosis aid — has been developed in the Pontchaillou Hospital at Rennes, Brittany. Next year, 40 terminals will be installed in general practitioners' surgeries for two years of experiments that are expected to lead to national use.

Professor Pierre Lenoir, who has supervised the program's development, says it is

the first time in the world that a computer system has been used in general medicine. 'We first of all had to analyse the process of making a diagnosis and found that the mental calculations involved were ideal for computer technology.'

'Do you know that there are 400 diseases which include the symptom of an inflated spleen? Our experimental computer can list all these diseases after a delay of seven seconds, while the next version will provide the answers instantaneously.'

The machine's real usefulness is its ability to provide permutations of possible illnesses.

Fed with 14 symptoms, the computer was able to suggest two illnesses that would combine 13 of them, four with 12 and 233 with two.

The computer has 2,200 illnesses stocked in its memory and new possibilities are being added all the time.

'In training a doctor learns to recognize only 200,' Professor Lenoir says. 'We believe that eventually the computer will contain the symptoms of 5,000 diseases.'

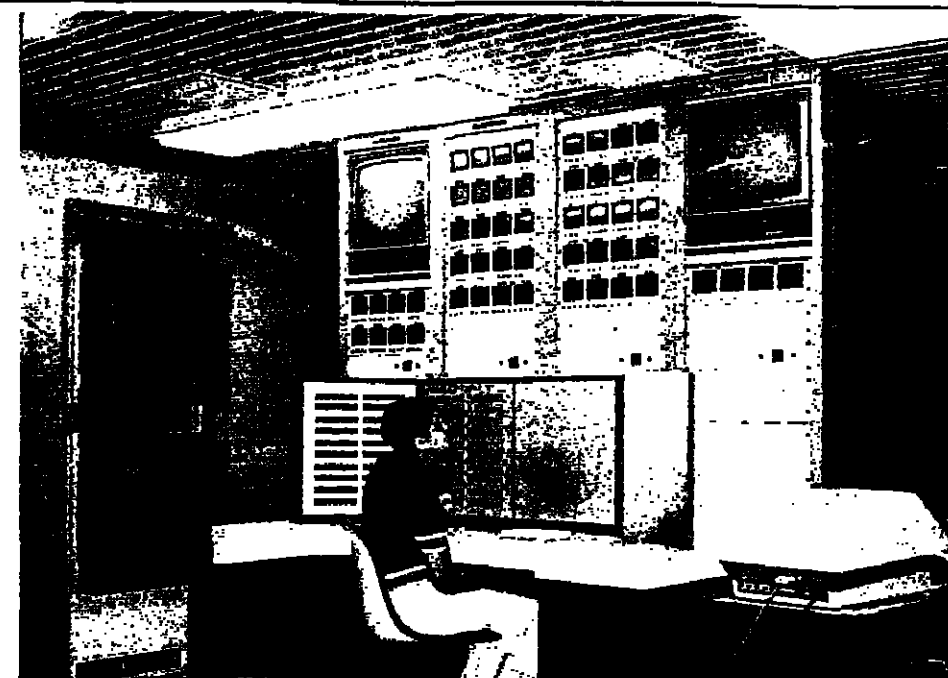
One reason for giving the computer such a wide diagnostic ability is the steady increase in exotic diseases imported by travellers. At

Rennes, two-thirds of parasitic illnesses have a foreign origin.

The training of student doctors will also be helped by the computer. In recent years training has become skimped because of a shortage of patients. Students used to be allowed 10 patients each. Now, because the number of students has increased, they can have only four.

'But with the computer, they will have a huge encyclopaedia which will always fall open at the right place,' Professor Lenoir says. 'We have gone over thousands of diagnoses kept in the hospital archives and found that in 93 per cent of cases the computer did at least as well or better than humans. In addition, there is a two-thirds saving in costs as supplementary examinations are not needed.'

The unknown quantity is the patient himself and there are still discussions going on about how the computer will be used in surgeries. Doctors are divided on whether it should be clearly on view or whether it should be hidden to reassure sick people that they



COMPUTER: taking over from doctors?

are not being handed over to machines. 'I think we all agree that the presence of a doctor is vital,' the professor says, dismissing the idea that a patient could use the terminal himself. But that question will become even more pertinent when the next stage of

Reanes' experiment begins. Another computer program, known as ATM — medical therapy aid — is at an advanced stage. This machine will not only be able to analyse symptoms but will prescribe the most suitable cure.

Arab News Diary

JEDDAH

By Raana Siddiqi

The 'outside road' past King Abdul Aziz University has been popular among motorists saving time in commuting between Mecca and Medina Roads. However, last week traffic was slow and heavy as scores of people visited the Motor Show — 1981 at the Harithy Exhibition Center. For a look at the new models displayed by thirty companies. The exhibition was inaugurated by Sheikh Mohammad Saeed Farsi, the mayor of Jeddah, and was the city's third motor show.

The Continental School Drama Group presented *The Little Match Girl* at the British Embassy Theater last Monday evening. Hans Christian Anderson would have undoubtedly approved this new version written by members of the Drama Group — compassion, goodwill and understanding of others' feelings were the theme of the play and made the drama very appealing. The music group added its own charm to the show. Repeated ovations by the full house after each sequence testified to the excellence of the production.

The wife of the ambassador of Japan, Mrs. Nakamura, gave a luncheon last Monday in honor of Mrs. Saiki, wife of the Minister at the Japanese Embassy, who is homeward bound soon. Mrs. Saiki's many friends were present and enjoyed the excellent hospitality and an array of specialties presented in the artistic tradition of Japan. Mrs. Saiki will be greatly missed on the social circuit. Her husband will remain in Jeddah for a few months before taking up his new assignment at the Foreign Office in Tokyo.

Robin and Sue Lamb of the British Embassy entertained friends to dinner last Sunday at their home and proved to be splendid hosts. The congenial group of guests enjoyed a very hearty and delicious meal in the simple elegance and comfort in which the Lambs' new abode is furnished.

When George Jacoby of the Canadian Embassy and his lovely wife Isis invited people to dinner at their Queen's Building apartment last Wednesday evening, the guests enjoyed not only the excellent hospitality and gourmet food but also the breathtaking view of Jeddah by night. Despite a nip in the air, the balcony was a favorite spot for admiring the city lights below and marvelling at how different downtown looks from above!

One month old Lactitia Florantime Moyoh, named after one of her maternal ancestors, has come home to father Coenrad with mother Caroline Haffner. Born in Paris in the cold winter, little Lactitia is finding Jeddah weather a bit too warm and wailing. Mother Caroline, meanwhile, has become active as usual in the Jeddah Concert Committee program. At a concert to be held on Monday, January 5 at 8.30 p.m. at the Continental School, Caroline will accompany on the piano French flautist Alan Mariont. Mariont is a well known a player who has just completed a successful tour of Japan. Tickets for the January 5 concert will be available at the entrance.

IWG's December get together will be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel on January 7 from 4 to 6 p.m. Please note the change of time for this meeting.

There is still time to join the Arabic language classes at the Khairiyah Women's Benevolent Society. An extensive course for women at SR 900 will give you sufficient knowledge of Arabic to make your stay in the Kingdom more meaningful. The Society is located on Mecca Road Kilo 3 not far from the Meridien hotel.

Eastern Province

By Jean Grant

You don't often see a man in a tuxedo in the Kingdom, or anywhere for that matter, but Aramoon Phil Halpin had something special to celebrate: winning the President's Cup tournament of the Rolling Hills Country Club. The yearly tournament honors the president, who this year is George Ryan. Winner of the women's championship flight was Carmen Esty. The Dhahran 27-hole golf course is considered one of the best in the Middle East and Halpin has been playing on its fairways since he came out in Dhahran 22 years ago. Halpin found golfing more accessible in Dhahran than in New York where he lived previously. 175 of the club's 400 members entered the tournament, so Halpin's and Esty's victories were warmly applauded at the formal award presentation dinner.

Kids on parade stole the show at last Thursday's UPM women's group annual bazaar. Young Abdullah Bakr and Waleed Sayyari, dressed in the Saudi national costume of thobe, abaya, and igal-topped ghutra, led off down the ramp. They were followed by Abdullah's sister Zahiya, looking charming in the ladies' thobe from the Gulf states, a royal blue dress with shimmering gold trim. The children had had 2

rehearsals before the show, but the sight of over a hundred continuously clapping parents with cameras at the ready, was enough to set off a few cases of stage fright. One little girl clutched her doll for moral support as she made the trek down the ramp. Another sucked her thumb. But most of the children were unconcerned. One casually wiped her nose on the fluttering long sleeve of the new dress she was showing off. Patrick Peeling, 7, modelled a pale-blue denim outfit just right for school while 4-year-old Kenrick Persanowski wore tan slacks, a fawn waistcoat, cream-colored shirt, bowtie, and gave his sunniest smile. Susie Gardiner looked all set to go to a garden party in a frock of pale blue voice. Molly Lunch and Naomi Lepp made a charming pair as they strolled down the ramp in sundresses of lilac and white with tucking and eyelet. Haifa Akili and Ebe Vajda of the children's committee organized the fashion show which featured trendy gear from Sesame Street store in the Safeway shopping center. Among the many community members who contributed to the success of the bazaar was artist Barbara Borne whose attractive 1981 calendar of Saudi scenes was on sale.

A second successful bazaar was held by the Haliburton-Oris wives in the Haliburton compound with handicrafts and baked goods galore.

At the Carlton Al Mosaib hotel on Dec. 19, 400 parents and children enjoyed a tea party with the season's jolly old man himself in attendance. Children from the French school and Dhahran Academy sang, and winners of the children's drawing contest were announced: 4-year-old Olivier Leguenne, Nadine Sayegh, 8, and Gbassan Bayoud, 11. Using water color paints or crayon, the children produced many variations on the theme of 'The Feast', one close to the hearts and tummies of kids of all nationalities. The Carlton Hotel has just the man to bring some of these food dreams to reality: chef Aziz Dfouni, formerly of the prestigious George V in Paris and Le Doyen restaurant in Beirut, arrived just 3 weeks ago with a repertoire of classic French dishes for Eastern Province gourmets.

A recent visitor to Dhahran was photographer Robert Aziz of *National Geographic*. Many residents here have admired his pictures in the book *Saudi Arabian Portfolio*. A Chinese delegation headed by Mr. Mo Lo, the Chinese Republic's deputy minister of education, is visiting UPM and KFU this weekend. Perhaps they will take in the current Chinese trade exhibition being held at Al-Khobar Al-Gosaibi Metropolitan Hotel until Dec. 27.



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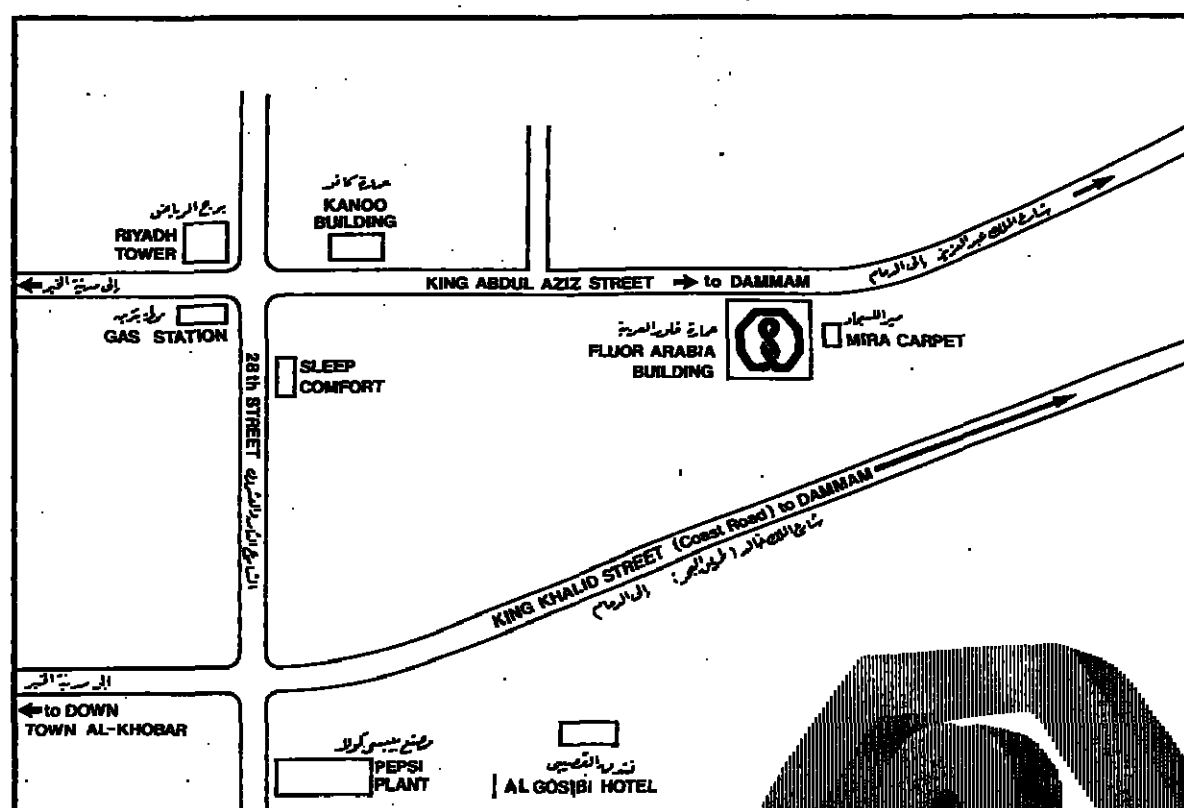
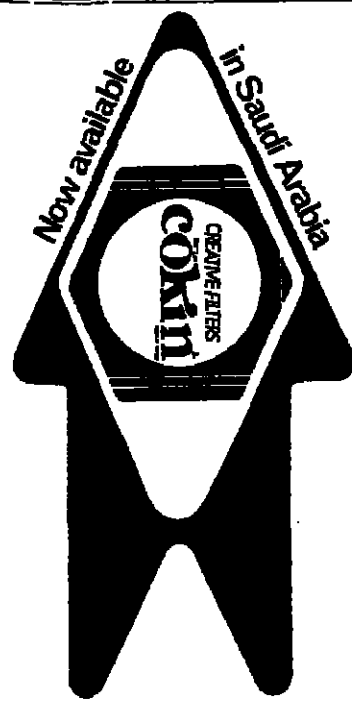
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U.S. consumer prices rise 12.5% in 1980

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24 (Agencies) — Consumer prices in America climbed yet another per cent last month — a 12.5 per cent annual rate — as the cost of food, housing and gasoline all rose substantially, the government said Tuesday. November's increase in the consumer price index matched the jumps for both September and October and brought inflation for the first 11 months of 1980 to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 12.2 per cent, the Labor Department said. Last year consumer prices rose 13.3 per cent.

Most private economists expect consumer prices to register possibly larger monthly increases through most of the winter because of rising food costs and continued high interest rates.

Despite the persistent inflation, a worker's real spendable income inched up 0.2 per cent in November, the department reported. Over the year, however, average weekly earnings — which deduct federal taxes and social security payment — are down 5.1 per cent on a seasonally adjusted basis.

The Labor Department report for November said:

— Food and beverage prices rose 1.1 per cent, compared with a 0.7 per cent increase the month before. Sugar shot up 7.9 per cent.

— Housing costs rose 1 per cent increase in the price at a home, household fuels, however, fell 1.1 per cent on top of October's 0.5 per cent decline.

— Financing an automobile cost 3 per cent more in November because of ever rising interest rates. Meanwhile, new car prices rose slightly following a 1.5 per cent decline in October.

— Gasoline prices jumped another 0.9 per cent after rising 0.3 per cent in October before then, they had fallen for five consecutive months.

The Labor Department's consumer price index last month stood at 256.2 before seasonal adjustment — that means that what cost \$100 in 1967 sold for \$256.20 in November.

Meanwhile, the Commerce Department reported Monday that people's incomes

stayed barely above the inflation rate. The department reported Monday that personal spending rose 1.2 per cent in November. Economists said that jump, which followed a 1.7 per cent rise in October, indicates consumers are relatively confident about the economy and are finding ways to cope with rising interest rates.

The consumer, said Economist Robert Gough, "is in no immediate danger of succumbing to high rates of inflation and interest rates."

Indelible mark on national perceptions

Ailing dollar part of U.S. economic woes

By Caroline Atkinson

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24 (WP) — There are a lot of things wrong with the U.S. economy now, but a weak dollar isn't one of them. The persistent pressure on the dollar for more than two years at the end of the 1970s seems, however, to have left an indelible mark on national perceptions. It's still common wisdom that the dollar is vulnerable and that this is a sign of America's economic failure. Election rhetoric, and even some post-election discussion of the economy, suggested that an ailing currency was part and parcel of America's economic woes. The figures show otherwise.

In the past three months, the dollar has risen by more than 6.5 per cent against the German mark, by just under 3 per cent against the International Monetary Fund's basket of major currencies — the special drawing right — and by 3.5 per cent against a weighted average of the currencies of major trading partners of the United States.

Although the rate has not yet regained its spring peak it is stronger than it was a year ago. Later the dollar stood more than 10 per cent higher against the traditionally strong German mark than it had been a year earlier. The mark has been particularly weak over the past months. But even when the dollar's value is measured against a basket of currencies, including the extraordinarily strong British pound and the recovering Japanese yen, it has climbed by 3 per cent over the last 12 months.

UAE replaces currency board

ABU DHABI, Dec. 24 (R) — A central bank has replaced the currency board in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), a spokesman said Tuesday. The UAE president's chamberlain, Sheikh Surour Ziahammed, was appointed chairman of the bank and Abdul-Malik Hamr, since 1978 managing director of the currency board, the governor of the bank, the spokesman told Reuters.

The government first decided to set up a central bank following a liquidity crisis in 1977 to control monetary and banking policies and practices in the seven-member federation.

The board's British chief executive, Ronald Scott, was replaced by an administrative committee while the government sought the help of the International Monetary Fund to formulate legislation setting up a central bank. The legislation was approved last July.

When Hamr became the board's managing director he pledged to exercise stricter control over banking in the UAE. Bankers have said they do not expect any dramatic changes immediately but they do expect gradually tightening supervision and more restriction in money market techniques.

economic institutes last month criticized the Central Bank for its tight money policy — and high interest rates. The economists said that the policy would lead to stagnation and higher unemployment next year. But the Central Bank prefers to take that risk than the one that the mark will be pushed down further.

There are some 'in the markets who believe that this winter will see a re-run of the spring seesaw in U.S. interest and exchange rates. Today's 20 per cent prime rate is way above even the gloomiest forecasts of some weeks back, matching the April peak, few expect that level to be maintained for very long, or exceeded. Many of the major banks have accompanied their increasingly frequent announcements of a prime rate rise with the comment that they expect the rise to be only temporary.

It is quite possible both that when rates peak they will fall very sharply, mirroring on the downside the rapid upward spiral, and that the peak will come soon. A sudden drop in interest rates would almost certainly knock some of the stuffing out of the dollar.

But it seems less likely that there will be a fundamental weakening in the dollar next year. Its recent relative strength has not been a fluke. Tight money and high interest rates have been part of the reason. A shift in the nation's trading performance and balance of payments, and the state of the world economy have also been important. A foreign exchange dealer for the New York office of Credit Industrial — a large Swiss bank — said that this bank expects the dollar to reach 2 deutsche marks early next year and to be buoyed up both by a forecast surplus on the current account of the balance of payments and by continuing relatively high interest rates.

In today's world, a current account surplus or deficit is often not the main influence on major currencies. Large shifts in exchange rates, particularly in that of the dollar, occur for other reasons, such as a change in interest rate differentials or a shift in international investors' currency portfolios for long-term reasons. But even so, the balance of payments can have an important effect.

BRIEFS

NEW YORK, (R) — Chase Manhattan, the third largest U.S. bank, Tuesday cut its prime lending rate by one point from a record high of 21.5 per cent, adding to a market belief that interest rates have finally peaked after many weeks of sharp increases. Chase was the second major American bank in two days to cut its prime rate, the base rate on loans made to a bank's best corporate customers.

DETROIT, (R) — The Chrysler Corporation, faced with mounting losses and the threat of bankruptcy, said Tuesday it was slowing down production of the much-heralded K-cars on which it has based its hopes of survival. Sales of the fuel-efficient, front-wheel-drive K-car, launched in October and considered as the savior of the third largest U.S. car manufacturer, have been hurt by surging interest rates in the last two months. The company said it would lay off 2,880 workers at K-car plants in Detroit and Newark, Delaware, when assembly lines start up Jan. 12 after the Christmas-New Year break.

PARIS, (AFP) — France's fierce out-price bread "war" reached a new record Wednesday when a supermarket in the northern town of Vendin-le-Viel sold 5,000 loaves at 0.80 francs (about \$0.20 each). Normal average price is about 1.80 francs (about 0.45).

HONG KONG, (AFP) — China's power industry fulfilled its 1980 production plan eight days ahead of schedule, the New China News Agency (NCNA) said Wednesday.

Foreign Exchange Rates

Quoted at 6:00 P.M. Wednesday

	SAMA	Cash	Transfer
Bahraini Dinar	—	8.57	8.86
Belgian Franc (1,000)	107.00	—	—
Canadian Dollar	2.80	—	—
Deutsche Mark (100)	171.00	172.00	172.15
Dutch Guilder (100)	157.00	—	158.25
Egyptian Pound	—	4.40	4.45
Emirates Dirham (100)	—	91.00	90.80
French Franc (100)	74.00	74.50	74.30
Greek Drachma (1,000)	—	75.00	—
Indian Rupee (100)	—	—	42.30
Iranian Rial (100)	—	—	—
Iraqi Dinar	—	9.50	—
Italian Lira (10,000)	36.00	36.65	36.63
Japanese Yen (1,000)	16.00	—	16.30
Jordanian Dinar	—	10.90	10.81
Kuwaiti Dinar	—	12.26	12.26
Lebanese Lira (100)	—	92.40	92.40
Moroccan Dirham (100)	—	81.50	81.86
Pakistani Rupee (100)	—	—	33.70
Philippines Peso (100)	—	—	44.50
Pound Sterling	7.90	7.95	7.94
Qatari Rial (100)	—	91.80	91.70
Singapore Dollar	—	—	1.98
Spanish Peso (1,000)	—	42.00	42.00
Swiss Franc (100)	189.00	191.00	190.00
Syrian Lira (100)	—	77.00	85.50
Turkish Lira (1,000)	—	44.00	—
U.S. Dollar	3.33	3.335	3.34
Yemeni Rial (100)	—	73.05	73.25
Gold kg.	—	64,850.00	—
10 Tola bar	—	7,580.00	—
Silver kg.	—	—	—

Cash and Transfer rates supplied by Al-Rafid Company for Currency Exchange and Commerce, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. Tel: 23815.

Mexico raises oil prices shipped to Japan by 19%

TOKYO, Dec. 24 (R) — Mexico's state-run oil corporation, Pemex, has told Japanese importers it has raised the price of its crude oil shipped to Japan by up to 19 per cent. The new prices are \$38.5 a barrel, up 12 per cent from \$34.5 and \$34.5 for Mayan crude, a 19 per cent increase from \$29 the Mexican Petroleum Import Company said Wednesday.

The company was formed by Japanese importers of oil from Mexico which does not belong to OPEC, said Pemex exports 100,000 barrels per day to Japan, about 1.8 per cent of this country's needs.

Importers here also said China had raised the price of its crude sold to Japan by \$0.85 a barrel, effective from Dec. 1. China exports about 160,000 barrels per day to Japan. The increase follows rises on about 10 per cent announced by OPEC nations, which is expected to push up Japan's oil import bill next year to over \$65 billion, more than double the 1979 figure.

Meanwhile, several major U.S. refiners in New York announced increases of as much as 2 cents a gallon in wholesale prices of gasoline, diesel fuel and home heating oil Tuesday as Saudi Arabia's 6.7 per cent oil price increase and the steady rise in domestic

crude prices continued to make themselves felt.

Industry spokesman said dealers could pass the increases on to consumers if they wished. The Labor Department said in Washington Wednesday that gasoline prices rose 0.9 per cent in November while the price of household fuels 1.1 per cent.

Among refiners confirming price increases were: Mobil Corp., Standard Oil Co. (Indiana), Cities Service Co., and Exxon Corp.

An Exxon spokesman in Houston said the move by the world's largest oil company was due in part to "the recent increase in Saudi Arabian crude." Exxon is one of the four U.S. companies that buy most of Saudi Arabia's crude oil. Mobil, another member of the consortium, attributed its increases to "the constantly rising cost of crude."

The consortium's other members, Texaco Inc. and Standard Oil Co. of California, last week raised wholesale gasoline prices as much as 2 cents a gallon. Saudi Arabia last week raised its crude oil price from \$30 to \$32 per barrel, retroactive to Nov. 1.

Saudi Arabian Government Tenders

Authority	Description	No. of Tender	Price SR	Closing Date
Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs	Temporary asphalt of street in Ohod Al-Masarna	1/1401	1000	Jan. 24
" "	Supply of vehicles, heavy equipment and sanitation equipment, and delivery at the warehouse of Jazan Municipality	2/1401	500	Jan. 25
" "	Temporary asphalt of streets in a rural complex in Sajar	4/1401	1000	Jan. 27
Ministry of the Interior, Dept. of Public Security	Cleaning of Public Security's stables	29/400/401	250	Dec. 27
" "	Supply of an electronic telephone exchange and construction of internal network at Public Security's training township in Riyadh	30/400/401	800	Dec. 29
Department of Education, Medina	Fencing of the historical sites in Rayis Badr	42	500	Jan. 10
" "	Repairs and some other works at some schools of the region	43	Free	Jan. 12
" "	Supply, installation and operation of airconditioners at schools	44	200	Jan. 17

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(CAR CARRIER)

ON 25-12-1980 (E.T.D. 26-12-1980)

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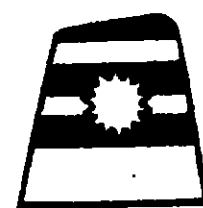
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South Dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH			
♠ K 5	♥ K J 10 8 5 4 3	♦ 8 2	♣ J 6
WEST			
♠ J 8 3	♥ 10 6 2	♦ A J 7 4	♣ K 10 9 5
EAST			
♠ —	♥ —	♦ K Q 10 9 6 3	♣ 8 7 3 2
SOUTH			
♠ A 9 7 4	♥ A Q 9 6 2	♦ 5	♣ A Q 4

The bidding:			
South	West	North	East
1♥	2♦	4♥	5♦
5♥	6♦	6♥	—

Opening lead — ace of diamonds.

Good card reading and good technique are a tough combination to beat. Consider this deal where South gets to six hearts and has to play exceptionally well to bring home the slam.

Looking at all four hands, it appears that the contract must fail after West leads the ace and another diamond. Declarer ruffs and apparently must rely on a club finesse to make the slam. But actually South has a far better chance

if he relies on a squeeze to make the contract.

He realizes that West, for his double of one heart, is almost sure to have the king of clubs as well as four or more spades. Accordingly, after ruffing the second diamond lead, South plays five rounds to trumps to produce the following position:

North			
♠ K 3	♥ 8 5	♦ J 6	♣ —
West			
♠ J 8 3	♥ 10 6 2	♦ K 10	♣ 8 7 3 2
South			
♠ A 9 7 4	♥ —	♦ A Q	♣ —

Declarer now leads the eight of trumps from dummy, discarding the queen of clubs, and West cannot discard successfully. If he parts with the ten of clubs, declarer simply plays a club to the ace, flooring the king and thus making the rest of the tricks.

If West discards a spade instead, South cashes the K-A of spades, ruffs a spade, and likewise makes the rest because his nine of spades has become a trick.

There is no escape for West. He must inevitably bow to good card reading and good technique.

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Worshiping 16.00, 16.01, 15.03 (KZK)
7.45 Religious Program
8.00 News
8.10 International Mm, 13.82 (KZK)
4.44 Ourselves (Devotional Music)
5.15 Dances — "Young Bie Tasting"
5.45 Film Music
6.00 News
6.15 Press Review
6.20 Commentary

Your Individual Horoscope

Frances Drake
FOR THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1980

What kind of day will tomorrow be? To find out what the stars say, read the forecast given for your birth sign.

ARIES
(Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) ♈
Out-of-town visitors may be part of your holiday. Romance and good times are highlighted but watch evening tension.

TAURUS
(Apr. 20 to May 20) ♉
Home should be the center of your holiday now, but as the day progresses, don't overtake yourself. Know when to ease off.

GEMINI
(May 21 to June 20) ♊
An active time for you. Romance is highlighted, but towards evening don't let fatigue make you short-tempered.

CANCER
(June 21 to July 22) ♋
The exchanging of gifts warms your heart, but don't feel that you are being outdone. It's the thought that counts.

LEO
(July 23 to Aug. 22) ♌
You'll have a special time now. Dining out is pleasurable. Romance is likely, but relax and don't try to impress.

VIRGO
(Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) ♍
Both family life and gifts you receive should be a cause

for joy. Don't spoil this day though by premature worry about bills.

LIBRA
(Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) ♎
Social life is accented. Don't let differences with a friend escalate into an argument. Try to be less critical of others now.

SCORPIO
(Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) ♏
You won't find the right words to express how you feel, but unwarily you're at peace. Leave career discussions to another time.

SAGITTARIUS
(Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) ♐
Visits with friends, both old and new, are heartwarming, but don't let the holiday spirit make you pompous. Avoid long-winded harangues.

CAPRICORN
(Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) ♑
Your social calendar may lead to important business introductions, but save actual negotiations for another time.

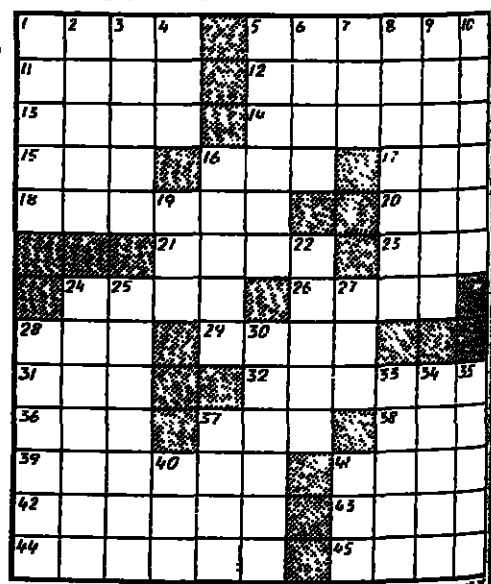
AQUARIUS
(Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) ♒
Social life is rewarding now. Avoid picking on a close friend about some little thing. Enjoy circulating with others.

PISCES
(Feb. 19 to Mar. 20) ♓
People you work with may be part of your holiday. Avoid a tendency to overdo in the p.m. Others turn you on to opportunity.

Crossword

by THOMAS JOSEPH

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 Passable | 43 Duro |
| 5 Kind of chair | 44 Gave a nasty look |
| 11 Mild oath | 45 Certain years |
| 12 Big olive | 46 Calvados source |
| 13 Flooring | 1 — ease (comfort) |
| 14 Calvados | 2 Pointed arch |
| 15 Centurian's greeting | 3 Oregon city |
| 16 "Chances —" | 4 Poem |
| 17 Hipster | 5 Gave a break to |
| 18 Actress or orange | 6 Soak up |
| 20 Chemical suffix | 7 Pixie |
| 21 Role for Leontyne Price | 8 Mount Suribachi is one |
| 23 Assent sign | 9 "— Rigby" |
| 24 Bunny | 10 Held out |
| 26 "Open the — Richard" | 16 Strange |
| 28 Drizzly | 17 Golf word |
| 29 Sheriff's showdown time | 18 Venerate |
| 31 "even's" opposite | 24 Athenian, e.g. |
| 32 Drive | 25 On the loose |
| 36 Winglike part | 27 Yoko — box |
| 37 Jerry — Lewis | 28 Sneaky |
| 38 English river | 29 person |
| 39 Pulpit talk | 30 Unlocked |
| 41 "My Name Is —" | 33 Prepare the vegetables |
| 42 Face in combat | 34 Blot out |
| | 35 Juicy fruit |
| | 36 Theater |
| | 37 Spoil |
| | 41 Likely |



DAILY CRYPTOQUOTE — Here's how to work it:

AXYDLBAAXE
LONGFELLOW
One letter simply stands for another. In this sample A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

CRYPTOQUOTES

SU SRHT IDD JFB BUIAUBH
ZTU KUBC TIYRUHZ JV TJDR
AIC HUIHJM. PIC CJFB NJJA
VUUDRMNH XU DJMN-DIHRMN.

— ZTU YFOODUPIEUBH
Yesterday's Cryptoquote: MAY ALL PEOPLES WELCOME EACH OTHER AS BROTHERS, AND MAY THE PEACE THEY LONG FOR EVER FLOWER AND REIGN AMONG THEM.—JOHN TWENTY-THIRD

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arab news CALENDAR

DHAHRAN TV

4:30 Children's Show
5:22 All Star Soccer
5:45 Film
6:49 Cinema
7:14 Little House on the prairie
7:39 Last Report
8:22 Channel 3 feature

VOA

8:00 News Roundup
8:30 News Summary
9:00 Special English
9:30 News Summary
10:00 News Summary
10:30 News Summary
11:00 News Summary
11:30 News Summary
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Bank Al-Jazira notifies that one of its employees MR. SHER MOHAMMAD S/O. NADIR KHAN, aged 31 years, Pakistan national, passport no. AF-570609 issued on 9-6-1977 and who had been working at its King Abdul Aziz Street Branch, Jeddah as Clerk-cum-Typist has been unauthorisedly absent from duty and has absconded w.e.f. 28-10-1400 A.H. without any intimation. His present whereabouts are not known:

Anyone knowing his whereabouts may please contact: The Manager, Bank Al-Jazira, King Abdul Aziz Street Branch, P.O. Box 116, Jeddah - telephone nos. 6424844, 6426049, 6424209, 6425037.

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الجمعة ١٨ صفر ١٤٠١ هـ

Awaits U.S. response

Tehran to delay trial decision

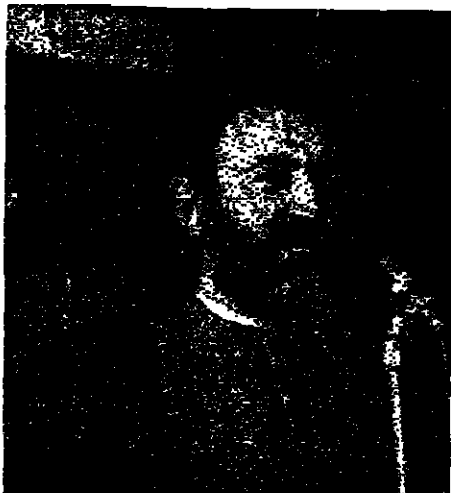
TEHRAN, Dec. 24 (AP) — The chief justice of Iran's supreme court Wednesday said that Iran will wait for an official U.S. response to its latest demand for release of the 52 American hostages before making any decision on whether to try them as spies.

Meanwhile, a leading Islamic hardliner has been quoted as saying the captives would not be freed under President Jimmy Carter and that President-elect Ronald Reagan would accept Iran's terms for their release "promptly" because he will have no other choice.

In a report from Tehran, the Yugoslavian news agency Tanjug said Hassan Ayat, a member of the hardline Islamic Republican Party in Iran's Majlis, told the English-language *Tehran Times* newspaper he saw no "possibility at all for the hostages to be released before Jan. 21," a day after the Reagan inauguration.

Tanjug said Ayat, the party's defeated candidate in presidential elections early this year, was also quoted as saying that after Reagan takes office and surveys the hostage situation, "he will accept Iranian conditions promptly, because he will have no alternative."

In Washington, the State Department reaffirmed that Iran would face "serious conse-



Ayatollah Beheshti

quences" if it put the hostages on trial. Department spokesman John Trattner responded to a statement Monday by the speaker of Iran's Majlis, Hashemi Rafsanjani, that the hostages would be tried as spies if Iran's demands were not met.

Trattner did not say what the consequences for Iran would be, noting only the administra-

tion had served notice on Iran long ago that it was prepared to take punitive action if the hostages were tried.

The hostages would be tried like any Iranian citizen if they were put in the dock, the head of the Iranian Supreme Court Ayatollah Beheshti said Wednesday, but an official U.S. reply must come before Iran decides to go ahead with trials, he said.

"Each of their crimes will be judged according to the Islamic constitution," he told a press conference, adding that the supreme court would decide if it became necessary which tribunal would hear the case. In any event, the Ayatollah said, the hostages would not be court-martialed.

Secretary of State Edmund Muskie has termed "unreasonable" Iran's latest demands delivered by Algerian intermediaries last week that the U.S. government deposit \$24 billion in cash and gold in Algeria's central bank as a condition for release of the hostages.

A commentary Tuesday on Tehran Radio called Muskie's response "comic," and termed "ridiculous" statements by Trattner that some hostages may be in prison or ill and not receiving proper medical care.

Widow 'hazard to state'

Prosecution demands Jiang's death

TOKYO, Dec. 24 (R) — The prosecutor Wednesday demanded the death sentence for Jiang Qing in the trial of Communist China's ousted "Gang of Four" radical leaders, the Japanese Kyodo news service reported. The news service quoting reliable Chinese sources, said the prosecutor had called Jiang Qing an extremely grave hazard to the people and the state.

The sources quoted Jiang Qing as saying that it would be a great pleasure to be sentenced to death, according to Kyodo. The prosecutor asked the judges to apply article 103 of the Chinese criminal code which pro-

vides for the death penalty for counter-revolutionaries whose crimes are so serious that no extenuating circumstances can lessen them. Kyodo said.

Kyodo said severe punishment has also been demanded for another defendant, former Vice-Premier Ghang Chun Qian, but the prosecution did not specify the death penalty. Jiang Qing, the rest of the "Gang of Four" and six others are accused of committing counter-revolutionary crimes during Mao's Cultural Revolution of 1966-76, and of harassing thousands of Chinese, in some

cases to the death. They have been on trial since Nov. 20.

The court was split into tribunals, one to try the five military officers involved and one for the civilians, in which the case against Mao's widow drew most attention. Scenes from the trial were broadcast on television in China and abroad, and millions saw Jiang Qing hustled from the dock after shouting at prosecution witnesses.

Tuesday she attacked the judges and chief public prosecutor in court, calling them Fascists the presiding judge warned her that her actions could lead to a heavier sentence.

Iran ignores Iraq peace offer; border clashes intensify

NICOSIA, Cyprus, Dec. 24 (AP) — Iran and Iraq have reported stepped up air and land fighting along the common border, and an Iraqi offer to negotiate peace has gone unanswered from Iran.

Revolutionary leaders of ethnic Arabs in Iran's southern oil province of Khuzistan were quoted as saying Iraq was providing "unlimited and unconditional support" to their struggle.

Calling themselves Arabistani revolutionaries, the leaders spoke at a press conference in Baghdad. Their statements were carried by the official Iraqi news agency, I.N.A.

Arabistan is the Arabic name of Khuzistan which has borne the brunt of the 93-day border war between Iran and Iraq. Stretches of Khuzistan fringing on the Shatt Al-Arab

waterway are in Iraqi hands.

The agency quoted one of the leaders, who was identified only by his code name Abu Karama, as saying the Iran-Iraq war was "an opportunity for Arabistani revolutionaries to escalate their operations. It is natural thing that a coordination takes place between the Arabistani revolutionaries and the Iraqi army."

Abadan radio reported a "mercenary acting as a fifth column agent for the (Iraqi)" was executed Tuesday after confessing to having infiltrated Iranian ranks and spied for Iraq. Six persons, believed to be Khuzistan Arabs, were executed by Iran on similar charges last week.

A renewed Iraqi offer to negotiate peace "from a position of strength" came in Paris from visiting Iraqi Vice Premier Tariq Aziz,

who told reporters his country had achieved its military objectives on the battlefield. There was no response from the Iraqis who have insisted on unconditional Iraqi withdrawal from all war-conquered territory before a cease-fire could be considered.

Iraq reported its first nighttime air raid against Iran in the three-month war, hitting the giant oil refining complex in the besieged city of Abadan on the northern tip of the Gulf.

Polish factories protest meat plan

WARSAW, Dec. 24 (R) — Workers from 120 factories in the Chelm Lubelski region on Poland's southeastern border with the Soviet Union staged protests and a one-hour strike Tuesday to back demands for meat rationing in the area. It was the second meat protest in Poland since local authorities were empowered to introduce pre-Christmas rationing to ensure fair supplies of meat and butter.

Local officials of the Solidarity free trade union said the decision to strike was made after Governor Alojz Zielinski had rejected requests to impose rationing. They said the governor told a 21-man delegation that the region's Christmas stock of meat amounted to 240 tons of low quality cuts for some 220,000 people.

Solidarity argued that it would be more just to divide the stock with coupons. The free trade union organization has pledged to refrain from strike action until mid-January to give the government a respite.

Communist officials, normally outspoken against strikes, conceded privately that actions over food, while not being conducive to a return to normalcy, were to some extent understandable. They acknowledged that the strike tactic was generally holding.

Union officials in Chelm, where they said shoppers had to stand in line for up to eight hours for meat, said they planned no further strikes and would not make any additional demands.

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ied "something unique." He said he felt at home from the moment he stepped on Philippine soil and that his few days in the country will always remain with him and will be shared by his children.

Nothing the generous praise of Marcos, Yamani said he is "just a servant of the people of Saudi Arabia, reflecting their wishes and the wish of His Majesty, the King, to make life easier in the world."

Also at the dinner were members of Yamani's delegation, members of the Marcos cabinet, justices and a select number of private businessmen.

Yamani's visit to Manila assumes major significance following Saudi Arabia's recent decision to resume oil supply to the Philippines. The supply had been cut due to what the Philippine media said was "a misrepresentation of the Mindanao problem, coupled with other reports on the status of Filipino workers in Saudi Arabia."



FOES: Ku Klux Klan leader Bill Wilkinson grins as Georgia State Senator Julian Bond takes a seat on the same stage for taping of the "Phil Donahue Show" in Chicago. Bond heads a group committed to the elimination of the Klan.



SNOW SKIRMISH: Boys in Stranberg, West Germany, hurl snowballs on the broad lawn of a dairy farm. An early winter storm blanketed the Bavarian village recently.

Satirist Voinovich outfoxes Soviet customs

MOSCOW, Dec. 24 (WP) — Satirist Vladimir Voinovich, after a decade of nip and tuck with the government about his lampooning of Soviet officialdom, has left Russia after a last-minute victory over obstinate customs men who seemingly sprang to life from one of his banned novels.

As with his best stories, what was a deadly serious confrontation hinged on something faintly absurd — 10 pages of old notes to himself on possible revisions to a biography he wrote years ago of revolutionary figure Vera Figner when his career had official approval.

After picking through the family's belongings for more than an hour at Moscow's Sheremetyevo Airport, the customs men decided the notes could neither be returned to the writer nor handed back to waiting friends, as they had allowed for other belongings.

"Then I'm not leaving," declared Voinovich, whose best-known fictional character, the hero of *The Life and Extraordinary Adventures of Ivan Chonkin* ultimately thwarts the Red Army and the secret police

by being wise, cunning — and stubborn. Voinovich retrieved luggage just cleared by customs, slid it outside the barrier and looked angry.

A classic Soviet faceoff began, with the six customs men nonchalantly smoking cigarettes and staring blankly over their counter as the minutes to flight departure ticked away, and Voinovich telling his wife, Irina, and daughter, Olga, they wouldn't be leaving for West Germany after all as required by the

official Soviet passports.

More than than 30 friends and family pressed forward at the customs barrier, fascinate and uncertain. The baggage line to the plane was closed, and the clerks began putting away their papers. But with 20 minutes to go to takeoff for Aeroflot flight 257 to Munich as artistic freedom for at least a year, a snide customs official suddenly busted forth with the notes in his hand and with a disdainful scowl instructed the others to turn them over to Voinovich's friends.

Dollar up in slow trading; gold firm

LONDON, Dec. 24 (AP) — The dollar was marginally higher in very slack trading in Europe Wednesday. Gold prices steadied after sharp gains overnight.

Many markets were shutting early. West German exchanges and government offices were closed all day. In London, Gold was trading at \$604.50 a troy ounce just before the city's five bullion houses fixed a recommended morning fixing price. That was 50

cents down from Tuesday's close. In Zurich gold also went for a median \$604.50 a ounce, up from \$602.50. Earlier in Hong Kong, gold closed at \$606.76.

Tuesday was the first time in two weeks that gold went above \$600 an ounce. A year ago it was worth \$485.50 an ounce.

Silver was quoted in London mid-morning at \$16.40 an ounce, unchanged from Tuesday and down from \$24.60 a year ago.

AGUA BRAVA
eau de cologne
PUIG
8.4 fl. oz. - 200 ml.

قازال AZ
DAH - RIYADH - AL-KHOBAR